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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 105

MONDAY APRIL 14, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



POLL RESULTS

Where should the governor deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address this year?

House Chamber-18

Multi-Purpose Center-76

Sunday April 13, 2008

INSIDE



Alarm over Food Prices

The head of the International Monetary Fund warned Saturday that if food prices remain high, there will be dire consequences for people in many developing countries, especially in Africa.

Business...Page 14



Britney Mishap

Britney Spears was involved in a minor traffic accident on a Los Angeles freeway Saturday, authorities said.

Life & Style...Page 21

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota residents have a higher average income than those who live on Saipan and Tinian, according to a recently released study.

The 2005 CNMI Household, Income, and Expenditures Survey shows Rota had a per capita income of \$8,592 in 2004. This is larger than the average income of \$6,017 made by Saipan residents, and \$7,494 made by Tinian residents.

See ROTA on Page 4

Poll: Catholics embrace faith, not Mass

RELATED NEWS

Benedict XVI ready to meet America. **PAGE 15**

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—American Catholics said in a new survey they were pleased with the leadership of Pope Benedict XVI, ahead of his first visit to the U.S. since he was elected. The study also found intense interest in faith among some young people.

Yet, few parishioners overall said they go to confession, and most believed they could be good Roman Catholics without going to Mass.

The poll, released Sunday, was commissioned by the nation's bishops and conducted in February by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at

See POLL on Page 4



A TASTE OF CULTURE

Kagman Elementary School's Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies students entertain the crowd with a traditional Carolinian dance presentation during the school's 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Chamber outlines hopes for immigration regs

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is hopeful that regulations will address local business concerns about the federalization of immigration in the Commonwealth.



Arenovski

2739 has passed the United States Senate

See CHAMBER on Page 4

'Federalization, longterm resident status initiative can go together'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Federalization and the initiative for longterm resident status for aliens can go hand-in-hand, according to Dekada

See FEDERALIZATION on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Seven-year-old Rose Anne Doca, displays a placard during a federalization potluck luncheon gathering hosted by the Human Dignity Movement at a pavilion in Beach Road Garapan Sunday afternoon.

Senate OKs bill to reduce salaries judges, justices. **PAGE 2**

US govt files charges vs ex-probation officer. **PAGE 3**

INTRODUCING

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Local

Senate OKs bill to reduce salaries judges, justices

The Senate has approved a bill cutting the salaries of the Commonwealth's justices and judges by 10 percent across the board.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Maria Pangelinan, states that the tax base cannot continue to support the Judiciary's large payroll. The CNMI's justices and judges receive salaries at, or in some cases above, the national average, based on statistics from the National Center for State Courts.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court will have his salary

cut from \$130,000 to \$117,000. The salary of each full-time associate justice of the Supreme Court will be reduced from \$126,000 to \$113,400.



Pangelinan

The bill would lower the salary of the presiding judge of the Superior Court from \$123,000 to \$110,700. The salary of each associate judge of the Superior Court will decrease from \$120,000 to \$108,000.

The bill will become law once approved by the House of Representatives and signed by the governor.

The reduction will apply to any justice's or judge's term that

begins after the bill's enactment. The reduction will also apply

Siemer fines, bars employer in illegal sponsorship

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Deanne Siemer has fined and permanently barred a businessman for entering into an illegal sponsorship scheme with a long-time alien worker in the CNMI.

Siemer ordered Ping Yin Cheung of Walvo Enterprises Corp. to pay a \$1,000 fine and barred him permanently from employing foreign workers for any purpose in the Commonwealth.

Siemer also denied worker Qian Jun Xu's request to transfer to a new employer and directed her to depart the Commonwealth.

She ruled that Xu shall take no money damages from her Labor complaint.

"The employment arrangement between Cheung and complainant was an illegal sponsorship. No job was provided, and none was intended from the outset," said the hearing officer in her order.

Xu alleged that she paid \$2,300 in processing fees to

the term for which he or she has been retained does not begin un-

Cheung in order to secure a job after she stopped working at garment manufacturer Winners II in November 2005.

Xu alleged that she signed a contract in March 2006 and that Cheung also signed the contract, but that no application was ever filed with Labor.

The complainant's permit expired in January 2006. Her complaint was filed in December 2006, nearly one year later.

No contact was recorded with Labor before the complaint was filed. Xu said she never worked during this time.

Cheung admitted signing the

til the bill's enactment. (Agnes E. Donato)

contract so that Xu could remain in the CNMI. But Cheung claimed that the payments made by Xu were for rent on space that he (Cheung) controlled.

Xu's husband was allegedly running in that building space an illegal garment cutting operation.

In her administrative order, Siemer said Xu's testimony with respect to the payments is not credible.

"Complainant has been in the Commonwealth since 1999 and is well familiar with the requirements for approved contracts," Siemer said.

Deportation of Yap researcher sought

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Immigration has sought the deportation of a researcher for the Yap State Department of Education and State of Academy for Culture.

According to Immigration investigator Nicolas T. Reyes, Mr. AhYu Win, also known as Thet Paing Win, a citizen of the Union of Myanmar working for Yap State, has failed to comply with the terms of his entry and is therefore a deportable alien pursuant to Commonwealth law and regulations.

Reyes stated in court documents that Win did not submit any tourist extension application to the Division of Immigration's

Processing Section.

Following the filing of the case, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman ordered respondent Win to appear in court on May 29 at 1:30pm and explain why he should not be deported from the CNMI.

The respondent entered on Jan. 30, 2008, under short term tourist. He was authorized by Immigration to stay until Feb. 29, 2008.

Reyes said Win was issued a Visitor's Entry Permit.

Reyes said to support the respondent's entry into the CNMI, Dr. Michael F. Caldwell from Yap Academy for Culture and Education wrote a letter to Immigration about Win, their

See **DEPORTATION** on Page 4

April SPECIALS

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the **SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota**. The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum offer - \$750,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
3. Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
4. Sunset Villa is being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Oscar Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

All proposals received will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2008 with the winner to be announced at a later date. Upon award, offerer is required to make a non-refundable deposit of 10% of the total price offer. Payment must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card.

Interested party or person is asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" to Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, ACEO. Deadline to submit proposal is **4:00 p.m. Monday, May 14, 2008**.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2008.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

US govt files charges vs ex-probation officer

The U.S. government has filed extortion charges against a former local probation officer who, while on duty, demanded and received money from numerous probationers.

The U.S. Attorney's Office filed last week an information charging Robin Norita Sablan with one count of extortion under color of official act.

Sablan, through counsel Joey San Nicolas, however, waived the indictment and entered a guilty plea.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted the defendant's guilty plea and set the sentencing for July 15, 2008, at 9am.

Munson directed the U.S. Probation Office to file a presentence investigation report to the court on or before June 10.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley recommended the temporary release of Sablan on an unsecured \$5,000 bond.

San Nicolas did not object.

Munson granted the government's request on among other conditions, that the defendant will not leave Saipan without court's permission.

According to court documents, from Sept. 18, 2004, to March 20, 2006, Sablan,

while employed as an assistant probation officer by the Commonwealth Adult Probation, demanded and received money from defendants under his supervision in return for promises of favorable official action with respect to said defendants' terms of probation.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years and \$250,000 maximum fine.

Under the agreement, Sablan will be required, among other terms and conditions, to make restitution to each and every person from whom he extorted money in return for a promise of official action.

Police arrested Sablan in No-

vember 2006 and brought him to the Superior Court in connection with the same charges.

He was accused of pocketing approximately \$5,640 as a result of his scheme. He resigned as probation officer with the Office of Adult Probation when the Office of Public Auditor and the Attorney General's Investigation Unit placed him under investigation on the early part of 2006.

Sablan reportedly confessed receiving payments from 11 probationers and issuing fake receipts during his tenure as probation officer. He claimed he used the money to support his gambling and financial problems. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Villagomez presents census report to OIA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Acting Governor Timothy P. Villagomez presented a most recently completed report on CNMI population, labor force and income to Wali Osman, Economist for the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), last Tuesday at the CNMI Governor's Office.

Acting Governor Villagomez, CNMI Commerce Department Central Statistics Division Director Jose T. Liwanag, and Justin Andrew presented to Osman the 2005 CNMI Household Income and Expenditures Survey, a study orig-

inally undertaken by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2005 HIES Report's survey was conducted in the last quarter of 2005. A summary section profiles the general population characteristics, labor force population characteristics and income for the CNMI as a whole and for each of the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, with thematic maps.

A second part of the report contains detailed statistical tables, totaling 188, on many of the topics covered in the 2005 HIES.

Richard A. Pierce, the governor's

special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs, stated, "OIA was extremely pleased to receive this most recent work detailing population and labor in the CNMI. They know how little good hard data is available in the insular areas."

Pierce added, "This 2005 HIES, and the 2008 Comprehensive Assessment and Impact Analysis Report we will present later, will allow OIA to represent better to the United States Congress and the Administration the real impact we face with our fragile islands' economy

threatened by forces apparently outside our control."

After an OIA grant was awarded to the Office of the Governor and CNMI Commerce, CSD worked with consultants from Harvard University and the Northern Marianas College to complete the important CNMI data files and tables to present to OIA.

OIA agreed to fund the completion of the U.S. Census Bureau's data files in report form after the CNMI requested the work to be undertaken as essential to the economic projects for the U.S. Governmental Accountability Office

(GAO), the U.S. Department of Labor's congressionally mandated review of minimum wage impact in the CNMI and for the ongoing independent economic impact analysis for the Office of the Governor.

The 2005 HIES states, among other vital statistical data and tables, the CNMI estimated population in 2005 was 65,927, with 60,608 on Saipan, 2,829 on Tinian and 2,490 on Rota.

The HIES lists population by election districts, median age, age distribution, sex ratio, ethnicity, citizenship, migrant population, reason for migrating to the CNMI, length of stay and living arrangements. Labor and income statistics cover employment by industry, employment and unemployment, employment by ethnicity and citizenship and by class of workers. Household and family income figures are provided, as are per capita income. **(PR)**

POLL

From Page 1

Georgetown University.

San Francisco Archbishop George Niederauer, head of the bishops' communications committee, was encouraged by the openness to faith in the survey but said it highlighted the need for better religious instruction.

"The challenge for church leaders," he said, "is to help them see what Catholicism really means."

Strengthening Catholic identity and observance are central themes of Benedict's papacy, and topics he is expected to address when he travels to Washington and New York

starting Tuesday.

In the survey, eight of 10 Catholics said they were somewhat or very satisfied with his leadership. Nearly half a million people sought tickets to his public events in both cities.

The poll found that Catholics born before 1960—among the most faithful parishioners—and those born since the 1980s have similar outlooks.

For Catholics who attend Mass at least once a month, an overwhelming majority of the young and older generation believe Christ is present in the Eucharist.

Even more, the younger, regular Mass-goers surpass their elders in observing Lent, with nearly all saying they abstain from meat on Fridays

and receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. The young people are also more likely to consider devotion to saints very important to their faith.

However, the study found that only 36 percent of the younger Catholics attend Mass at least once a month, compared with 64 percent of the older generation.

Sixty-eight percent of all Catholics surveyed said they agreed that they believed they could be in good standing with the church without going to weekly Mass.

The poll, "Sacraments Today: Belief and Practice Among U.S. Catholics," found that nearly one-third of the nation's 64 million Catholics attend Mass in any given

week. That figure has remained the same in the last five years, according to the report.

Thirty percent of the respondents said they go to confession less than once a year and 45 percent said they never go.

Regarding the church's social justice teaching, two-thirds of Catholics said helping those in need is a moral duty for Catholics.

The survey also measured satisfaction with the American church hierarchy. Seventy-two percent of Catholics said they were somewhat or very satisfied with the bishops' leadership, a 14-point jump since 2004, when the clergy sex abuse crisis was still roiling the church.

DEPORTATION

From Page 2

researcher.

In the letter, Caldwell said Win will come to Saipan for about two to three weeks to research the history of the Japanese occupation period in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The researcher, however, did not leave CNMI since his arrival here, according to Immigration records.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

president Stephen Woodruff.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Woodruff said some people have incorrectly put the LTR (longterm resident) status initiative as if it something that

was opposed to federalization or an alternative to federalization.

Woodruff said some people are calling the LTR status a ploy or a ruse to block federalization.

"And that's all nonsense," the lawyer pointed out.

The fact of the matter is, he noted, this LTR initiative is very important re-

gardless of whether there is or there is federalization.

If there is federalization, Woodruff said, this LTR initiative is one of the important step for the CNMI to make federalization work to smooth out the transitional process into the new system.

The initiative, he added, will provide the CNMI with a stable workforce and a

fair, more just system of foreign contract labor to supplement the local workforce.

"These two things (federalization and LTR initiative) can really go hand-in-hand," the lawyer stressed.

Woodruff said federalization and LTR are important steps toward the CNMI's economic recovery.

The U.S. Senate passed a bill that

will apply federal immigration laws to the CNMI and give the Commonwealth a non-voting House delegate.

Woodruff and some leaders and supporters of Dekada and other alien workers' groups had recently participated in a forum and meetings on the issue of long-term resident status for aliens in the CNMI.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

in its current form, we look forward to having a seat at the table and participating in the formulation of regulations pertaining to the bill to ensure that our questions and concerns are addressed and to hopefully clarify ambiguous portions of the legislation," said Chamber president Jim Arenovski.

On top of the Chamber's agenda is to ensure the regulations offer potential investors and existing businesses "a greater sense of stability, and knowledge of what the future will hold, than the bill does," said Arenovski.

According to Arenovski, the Chamber will seek to ensure that local businesses have access to qualified workers into the future. This concern comes in light of the immigration bill's stated intent of reducing the nonresident worker pool.

The Chamber also hopes the regulations will enable the CNMI to maintain a visitor industry. Tourism is the only remaining large-scale industry supporting the community.

The concern is that a federalized system will pose uncertainty to the China and Russian tourist markets. Under federal control, tourists from these countries will be required to apply at U.S. embassies.

Arenovski said the embassies would

place great limits on those would choose to travel here. The limits include a much higher pricing and the required travel to get to a U.S. embassy."These factors alone may be enough to severely damage the 10 percent of the NMI tourism market these countries represent," he added.

The U.S. Senate, by a vote of 91-4, passed the bill. The measure now heads to the U.S. House of Representatives, where it has bipartisan support. The

House is expected to concur shortly. Once the bill clears the House, it will be sent to the president for his signature, and will then become law.

In addition to federalizing CNMI immigration, the bill would also give the Commonwealth a delegate with limited voting powers to the U.S. House.

The CNMI provisions contained in S. 2739 are identical to the House version, H.R. 3079, which passed by the House in December 2007.

ROTA

From Page 1

The government was the largest employer on Rota, with about 36 percent of Rota's total employed population in 2005.

The largest industry on Tinian was the accommodation industry with about 38 percent of the employed population in 2005. Public administration was the second largest sector employing about 17 percent.

On Saipan, the largest employer was the garment industry with about 33 percent of the employed population in 2005. Accommodation industry was the second largest with 13 percent, followed by public administration, which employed over 8 percent, and retail trade with close to 8 percent.

Household income

Rota also posted the highest household income among the three main islands in the commonwealth. The median

household income on Rota in 2004 was \$22,270, and the mean household income was \$29,839.

Tinian's median household income in 2004 was \$21,538. The mean household income on Tinian in 2004 was \$32,318.

Saipan, the center of business and tourism, posted a median household income of \$16,835 in 2004. The mean household income on Saipan was \$24,629.

Of the 700 Rota households that reported household income in 2004, 21 percent earned less than \$10,000; 23 percent had household income \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; 17 percent had household income of \$20 or more but less than \$30,000; 24 percent had income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and 14 percent had household income of \$60,000 or more.

On Tinian, over 650 households reported household income in 2004. Twenty-two percent earned less than \$10,000; 26 percent had household income \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; 11 percent had household

income of \$20 or more but less than \$30,000; 27 percent had income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and 14 percent had household income of \$60,000 or more.

Over 14,000 households on Saipan reported household income in 2004. About 29 percent had a household income of less than \$10,000; 30 percent had household income \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; 13 percent had household income of \$20 or more but less than \$30,000; 19 percent had income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and close to 10 percent had household income of \$60,000 or more.

Family income

Saipan also lagged behind in terms of family income. The median family income on Saipan in 2004 was \$19,174 and the mean family income was \$27,933.

Tinian posted median family income of \$26,630 and mean family income of \$35,352 in 2004.

On Rota, the median family income

n 2004 was \$24,514 and median family income was \$32,583.

An estimated 10,500 families on Saipan reported family income in 2004. About 23 percent of these had family income of less than \$10,000; 30 percent had family income \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; 13 percent had family income of \$20 or more but less than \$30,000; 11 percent had family income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$40,000; almost 12 percent had family income of \$40,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and 12 percent had family income of \$60,000 or more.

Of the 463 families that reported family income on Tinian in 2004, almost 20 percent of these had family income of less than \$10,000; 18 percent had family income \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; close to 15 percent had family income of \$20 or more but less than \$30,000; 8 percent had family income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$40,000; 23 percent had family income of \$40,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and 15 percent had fam-

ily income of \$60,000 or more.

On Rota, an estimated 565 families reported family income in 2004. About 17 percent of these had family income of less than \$10,000; 22 percent had family income \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; 15 percent had family income of \$20 or more but less than \$30,000; 13 percent had family income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$40,000; 18 percent had family income of \$40,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and 15 percent had family income of \$60,000 or more.

Conducted in 2005, the HIE Survey lists population by election districts, median age, age distribution, sex ratio, ethnicity, citizenship, migrant population, reason for migrating to the CNMI, length of stay and living arrangements. Labor and income statistics cover employment by industry, employment and unemployment, employment by ethnicity and citizenship and by class of workers. Household and family income figures are provided, as are per capita income.

Health Day highlights Science Fair Week at SAES

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Health Day highlighted the San Antonio Elementary School's 4th Annual Science Fair week last week.

SAES Health Day Committee chair Hilda Rios said the school is glad to see the whole school participating in the event.

"Other schools have only the lower grades or just the fifth or sixth graders that take part in their school's Science Fair Week, but we wanted find a way to get the whole school involved," Rios said.

Kindergarten to the sixth grade, which were broken into groups, scoured the SAES cam-

pus learning about safety and health facts from various government agency presenters.

Presenters included the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Offices, Department of Public Health Immunization Program, DPH HIV/AIDS Program, American Red Cross, Northern Marianas College-CREES, Northern Mariana Protection & Advocacy Services Inc., Community Guidance Center, Division of Sports and Recreation, Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Youth Services, among others.

Health Day, Rios said, "is a great way for our students to learn the importance of different

government agencies and what they do for our community."

The school also held a school-wide Science Fair

competition wherein students from all grades submitted their science projects to vie for the spot to which his or her project

will represent the school for the island-wide competition.

SAES entries were judged by the DEQ's Kathleen Her-

mann, NMC-CREES Patricia Coleman, DPH's Margaret Aldan, Latisha Lochabay, and Tanta Tenorio.

Tinian High PTA meeting on April 17

To all parents and legal guardians of Tinian High School students: The Tinian High School Parent Advisory Council gives notice of intent to change the name to Tinian High School Parent Teacher Student Association. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 3:30pm at the Tinian Youth Center. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, contact Wella Mendiola at wellaemendiola@yahoo.com or Frances Diaz at diazfrancesh@hotmail.com or 433-3800. Your participation is needed. (PR)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFPO8-CRM-055**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 13, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new water schedule in Oleai has prompted residents of the Oleai and San Jose villages to request the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to extend the water rationing schedule or reinstate it to the afternoon hours daily.

Resident Melvin Faisao, in his letter to CUC executive

director Anthony C. Guerrero said, "This new schedule is very unfair, bad enough that CUC did not take into consideration children who attends school and the early release and shut off of water is an uncalled and unjustifiable a bad decision."

Faisao said the Oleai and San Jose villages have been receiving water from 2am to 4am and then he discovered that the water schedule had

been revised from 3am to 4am after he spoke with two CUC Trouble Desk personnel on Saturday.

"Taken into consideration that pressurization of water into the pipes may take 20 minutes and at its peak pressure we may have 30 minutes only, since the water will be shut off at 4am," said Faisao.

He says that he is still appealing for much longer hours, "If not reinstate the afternoon

hours from 1pm to 6pm daily."

He added that he is hoping that CUC may consider "appropriately addressing this concern by extending the water rationing schedule from 3am to 7am daily or reinstate the afternoon water rationing schedule."

Faisao had written a letter to Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez over a month ago regarding the water rationing schedule in both the villages.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, DEQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated use of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, DEQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Director of DEQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. DEQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

- 1. APPLICANT:** Anthony C. Guerrero, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950.
- 2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Parts 3 and 10 (Commonwealth Register Vol. 26 No. 09, September 24, 2004).
- 3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall is located inside the Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, at Latitude 15° 13' 35" N, Longitude 145° 43' 40" E, or approximately 1200 feet northwest of the Puerto Rico Dump, at a depth of 49 feet. This area is designated as Class A marine waters.
- 4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to issue a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit authorizing the continued operation of the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant and discharge of treated effluent to the Tanapag Harbor. The Sadog Tasi Plant has been designed and is presently operated to provide secondary treatment of municipal wastewater. The discharge of effluent from the Sadog Tasi plant has previously been authorized by different EPA NPDES permits and DEQ certifications, which the new permits are intended to replace.

CUC has also applied for, and DEQ is proposing to accept, a Zone of Mixing (ZOM) extending 49 feet in all directions from outfall diffuser structure, in which initial dilution (mixing) of the treated effluent with seawater is allowed to occur, and beyond which water quality criteria must be met. The ZOM will apply not apply to toxic substances, which must meet CNMI criteria at the point of discharge ("end of pipe").

- 5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The discharge of secondary treated wastewater into the Tanapag Harbor is an ongoing activity which has been authorized by previous EPA and DEQ permits. Impacts include degradation of water quality to levels below that prescribed by the WQS within the immediate vicinity of the discharge, up and to the point defined by the proposed zone of mixing (ZOM). Beyond the ZOM, a certain degree of degradation is still be expected to occur for some distance as the effluent experiences further mixing with the surrounding marine waters, although not to the point where water quality criteria are exceeded. However, projected water quality calculations performed by USEPA suggest that the criteria for enterococci bacteria will be exceeded for some distance beyond the allowable zone of mixing. Additionally, previous monitoring data suggests that water quality criteria for silver, copper, nickel and zinc, which are toxic to marine life, may also be violated within the immediate vicinity of the outfall, but not beyond the zone of mixing.
- 6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:** The primary mitigation measures for the discharge of treated effluent are proper treatment plant operation and maintenance, and requirements (prohibitions) regarding the types of wastes and substances that can be disposed of into the public sewer system. Under the USEPA permit, CUC will be required to properly operate the treatment system and to regulate users of the sewer system. The mostly likely course of action to mitigate for previously recorded exceedences of toxic metals (silver, copper, nickel and zinc) will be for CUC to enforce their prohibitions on customers who are more likely than others to discharge such substances, such as photo shops and medical facilities.

Because the discharge is expected to violate the criteria for enterococci bacteria even with the allowance for mixing, USEPA is proposing to issue an administrative order (AO) shortly after issuing the permit, which may require CUC to install and operate additional treatment facilities, such as disinfection equipment, to meet the permit limitations.

Written comments and inquires should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

MVA attends Shanghai World Travel Fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Marianas Visitors Authority staff Joey Charfauros is interviewed by Shanghai media during the recent three-day Shanghai World Travel Fair.

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently returned from the Shanghai World Travel Fair. Two members of the MVA team along with four Carolinian Cultural dancers attended the show to promote the CNMI as a destination. The three-day event was attended by thousands of Chinese and foreigners living in the Shanghai area.

Booths representing destinations around the world competed to grab the attention of the visitors. The Marianas booth, manned by Tinian Dynasty Holidays, Century Tours staff, and other Saipan companies, were on hand to provide information for prospective visitors to our islands.

The Marianas was given the honor of being the first to perform for the opening ceremony.

The dancers did an outstanding performance showcasing the islands' culture and local tradition which was enjoyed by all. The performers also did coconut weaving and banana painting on the third day which was also enjoyed by everyone, most especially the children.

The MVA delegates, consisting of Joey Charfauros and Leng Bai, had the opportunity to meet with visiting journalists and provided them with information about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. In addition, they had the chance to meet with Xu Bao An, director of the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administrative Commission Office, to establish a relationship between MVA and work together to promote the CNMI in Shanghai. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Marianas Visitors Authority staff Leng Bai, left, and Joey Charfauros pose with a member of the Shanghai media during the recent three-day Shanghai World Travel Fair.

MVA participates in Kansai Travel Fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority, through its Japan office, recently participated in the Kansai Travel Fair at the Kansai International Airport.

The show is one of the largest travel consumer trade shows in the region.

During the two-day event, Saipan-da Marianas Quiz was conducted to bring awareness of the CNMI local attractions and other products while offering various giveaways.

A consumer seminar was also held during the event, which focused to promote the CNMI as a destination and highlight on the proximity of

the CNMI to Japan. The Active Senior Campaign was also introduced to consumers who participated in each of the seminars. There was an estimated total of 33,000 visitors at the fair and more than 20 consumers attended each of the seminars.

"As always, our presence at these promotional shows are a very important component of our marketing efforts," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "As our No. 1 source market, it remains vitally important to MVA that our islands are consistently promoted throughout Japan." (MVA)

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- FREE online banking and e-Bankoh Bill PaySM for Business²

Bank of Hawaii

Offer expires 5/25/08. ¹ When you make 20 transactions or less per month. ² Up to 150 free online bill payments per month, \$1 for each additional payment thereafter. ³ First month of payroll processing fees free for new payroll customers that sign up for service on or before 6/30/08. Please use promo code B82008. Total waived fees not to exceed \$500 per customer. ⁴ A \$150.00 value. Applies to a single terminal and set-up fee. May not be combined with any other packages or promotions offering terminal or setup fee discounts or waivers. Application and credit approval required. ⁵ You must sign up for a Bankoh Visa[®] Check Card for Business to be eligible for this offer. Must be 16 years of age or older to sign up for Bankoh Visa[®] Check Card for Business. Some restrictions apply. You will receive a \$50 gas coupon good at any Shell Station on Saipan or NECO Plaza Shell, Madalain, Koror, Palau upon signing up for your Bankoh Visa[®] Check Card for Business. Limit one \$50 gas coupon per customer/per account. Good while supplies last. Not combinable with other discounts or offers.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB08-DOF/P&S-048**

"SALE OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 5, 2008
OPENING DATE: MAY 5, 2008

TIME: 11:00 A.M.
TIME: 1:00 P.M.

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the specifications at the Office of the Director, Procurement & Supply in Lower Base, Saipan, during regular working hours.

Bidder(s) are cautioned to inspect the property(s).

You are cautioned to bid only on those items you are prepared to pay and remove in accordance with the terms and conditions of this sale.

A bid bond of fifteen percents (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-5498
Fax: (670) 234-1270 • Web site: www.nmcnet.edu

Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room,
NMC Saipan Campus
Tuesday, April 15, 2008
9:00am

AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters**
A. Roll Call
- Public Comments/ Miscellaneous**
- New Business**
A. FY 09 Budget
B. CNMI Retirement Matter
- Executive Session** - At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- Adjournment**

/s/ Joey P. San Nicolas
Acting Chairperson,
Board of Regents

April 11, 2008
Date



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
 Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



NOTICE OF HEARINGS
ENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR APRIL 17, 2008 AND APRIL 24, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-173	Lozano, Teresita A.	4JC Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-174	Cabrera, Yolanda C.	4JC Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-233	Ilorde, Lourdes T.	AA Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-245	Nombalang, Peter L.	Acosta, Carmen C.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-111	Farro, Rocelia G.	Ada, Rosalinda G.	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-110	Farro, Ferdinand R.	Ada, Rosalinda G.	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-168	Ibanez, Michael Dlc.	Alfante, Yolanda O.	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-164	Manosa, Danilo DC.	Alfonso, Francisco V.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-387	Li, Yuanfu	An Da International Corp.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-162	Gison, Robert B.	Baitlon, Teresita	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-269	Zhou, Jianfang	Besebes, Akemi	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-280	Samar, Blasito F.	Bisnes Mami Saipan Inc.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-128	Yap, Jorge B.	Bright Start Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-176	Cruzat, Jemina D.	Calayag, Celerino M.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-247	Blanco, Eden A.	Calma Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-001	Santillan, Melinda T.	Camacho, Aida A.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-379	Bautista, Nida L.	Camacho, Joyce R.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-328	Lin, Feiqiong	Cangco, Pascual T.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-336	Abaygar, Ronald N.	Castro, Alexander	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-254	Verde, Carmencita V.	Chan Kwai Shing	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-375	Cruz, Josephine F.	Cruz, Thelma M.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-276	Tong, Lianfang	Cui Rong Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-271	Diana, Domingo C.	Dailey, Myrna	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-197	Aleta, Esther R.	Delos Santos, Elena	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-227	Jeong, Ouk Soon	Dong Rim Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-376	Li, Renwei	Double Lee Corp.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-241	Wu, Zhuohao	Drew, Dolores R.	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-268	Ignacio, Mark Rainier Q.	E E A Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-159	Guevarra, Manuel M.	E. C. & M. Incorporated	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-199	Elbo, Rogelio C.	Elbo, Violeta C.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-330	Veloria, Rebecca N.	Encarnacion, Jaclyn S.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-210	Lee, Eun Kyung	Evertrust Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-234	Diesta, Regina C.	Feraran, Rustica	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-273	Huang, Yanfei	Fu Mei Development Corp.	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-262	Hu, Lunrong	Fu Mei Development Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-261	Daniel, Ricardo Bart R.	Gacayan, Juan A.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-115	Sahagun, Ruben G.	Golden Eagle Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-236	Liu, Jian	Hawaii Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-078	Huang, Ming Shan	Huang Zheng Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-263	Li, Donghua	J C J Co., Ltd.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-075	Tengco, Ricardo S.	J.T.M. Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-200	Gutierrez, Rachel R.	J.T.M. Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-251	Garillo, Ernesto V.	Jap Professional Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-196	Cho, Jin Wook	Jin Joo Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-272	Jin, Fengyue	Jin, Ming Yue	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-232	Marcellana, Josefina M.	Lagartos, Rolando	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-036	Du, Jian Fang	Lely, Margarita M.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-157	Deocares, Imelda E.	Leong, Lourdes B.	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-277	Liu, Jun	Liao Ti Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-216	Xu, Xingnong	Long Feng Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-067	Kumar, Amit	Naina Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-398	Wu, Hongde	Nakatsukasa, Ester	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-401	Paracale, Valentin L.	Pamintuan, Noreta V.	Apr. 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 07-454	Qian, Caixia	Pangelinan, Mariano	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-235	Wang, Xingjing	Peace Asia Pacific Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-104	Hirata, Aura A.	Quitugua, Asuncion	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-160	Apas, Renee P.	R & S Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-033	Hamoy, Clifford L.	Saint Trading Co. Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-129	Herrera, Maridel E.	Saipan Hotel Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-156	Odicta, Ryan S.	Sesai Trading Co.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-206	Dedel, Daniel Jr. M.	Success Int'l. Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-198	Asedillo, Marlon A.	Tae Woo Corporation	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-260	Capili, June	Takai, Maria L.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-242	De Guzman, Florentino M.	V & V Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-252	Salvador, Annie A.	Villafuerte, Meliton P.	Apr. 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-215	Wang, Yumei	Yantze Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-248	Tang, Xinmei	Yong He Pacific Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-266	Serrano, Wilfredo C.	Yumul, Elena	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-265	Manebog, Arnel	Yumul, Elena	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-050	Hong, Weijun	Yuuhei Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS

Locals who owned a share in Saipan Beach Intercontinental Hotel, from left, Lydia Igitol, Ana Igitol, Margaret Muna Igitol, Luis Igitol, and Pablo Igitol. Seated at the back are Manases and Remedio C. Matsunaga.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 14, 1999

School money cut

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has moved closer to overhauling the government's scholarship program after he signed a law imposing a cap on the financial aid that will be granted to on and off-island students for post secondary education. Under Public Law 11-77, which amends the scholarship act put in place in 1990, financial assistance to students enrolled in Northern Marianas College or in universities in the United States or its territories will be pegged at \$15,000 annually per student.

NMC board votes to restructure

The Northern Marianas College board approved yesterday a restructuring plan for a leaner top-level management team. The approval clears the way for issuing 90-day notices to vice presidents and other key positions. The restructured bureaucracy retains only one vice president, from three, and three deans. The downsizing was necessary to bring the college in line with budget limits in fiscal 2000.

CPA mulls over airline incentives

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is studying the possibility of providing incentives to all airlines in a move to stimulate traffic and revive the ailing tourism economy, said Carlos H. Salas, executive director. "We are making an analysis right now to quantify the incentives that we must give," he said. The ports authority is looking at reducing the landing fees and passenger facility charge for existing airlines that will increase their seating capacity and carriers that will service new destinations.

April 14, 2000

DOF moves deadline for tax filing

The Revenue and Taxation Division is giving Northern Marianas taxpayers more time to prepare their income tax returns by moving the deadline for the filing of the 1999 ITRs to April 17, 2000, the finance department disclosed yesterday. The Department of Finance normally moves the last day of filing ITRs to the next working day when the deadline falls on a weekend. In this year's case, April 15 fell on a Saturday.

Economic difficulties hinder \$60M bond float

Economic difficulties and higher prevailing interest rates are obstructing the prompt flotation of the tax-exempt \$60 million municipal bond, which drag the completion of major infrastructure projects in the Northern Marianas. Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the government had to postpone the flotation of the municipal bond from March to June 2000 due to the higher interest rate prevailing in the U.S. market.

BOE wants discretionary power over PSS CIP funds

Education officials yesterday scorched actions taken by some members of the Legislature regarding measures that were introduced and passed despite the absence of consultation meetings with the Board. At the same time, members of the Board of Education stressed that the Public School System be given discretionary authority in expending funds for school-related capital infrastructure projects in order to arrest snags in its prompt completion.

April 14, 2003

NMC to restrict nursing program from foreign students

The Northern Marianas College remains committed to pursuing its Pacific Gateway project but it would limit its international enrolment to the English program. NMC president Kenneth E. Wright said the college would concentrate primarily on teaching English, indicating that not all NMC programs-particularly the expensive ones like Nursing-would be opened to foreign students.

DOF stops Marianas Lottery raffle promo

Due to some legal concerns raised by the Attorney General's Office, the Marianas Lottery was prevented from going ahead with its planned raffle draw for the brand new 2003 Ford Ranger pickup truck. Marianas Lottery GM Marie Coleman sought to assure its customers, though, that the raffle draw may still push through as local lottery officials are set to meet this week with Department of Finance to iron out any glitches in the raffle promotion.

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It's like magic!



*Not valid with any other promotional offer. For a limited time only.

Every time you gas... fill-up your Lucky 7 Passport during Shell's Double Stamp Days and earn your \$7 bonus reward **TWICE AS FAST** when you fill your vehicle at any Shell station.



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DCCA: Traditional Medicine Workshop on Rota a success

The 3rd Annual Traditional Medicine Workshop on Rota was a big success compared to last year with 434 total students attending the three-day event held from April 9 to 11.

In collaboration with the Office of Mayor Joseph S. Inos and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the first day of the event saw Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos emphasize the importance of the herbal plants and process of the herbal medicine in the local culture.

He said the practices are the people's heritage from "guela' and guelo' of long ago."

The three-day workshop brought together students from different schools and grade levels including the Sinapalo Elementary School, Junior High School, Rota High School, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja School, and Rota Grace Christian School.

Presentation of different herbal medicines such as amot mahulat, amot pasmu, amot tabditiyu, amot makpong patgon, amot tanso', amot pasmon rekla, amot makpong amko', and da'ok oil were presented by the island's suruhana Lourdes T. Manglona, Julita A. Calvo, and Carmen M. Toves and suruhanu Timothy M. San Nicolas.

Each presentation was uniquely organized including picture display board, live plants, and demonstration. Tasting of the finished herbal product was also experienced by most participants.

The three-day herbal medicine workshop is one of the activities of DCCA aimed to enhance knowledge, understanding and appreciation of herbal plants and usage in alternative remedy especially to young generation hoping to promote and preserve the cultural heritage.

Special appreciation to others who have extended assistance and support to the 3rd Annual Traditional Medicine Workshop, "Dangkulo na si Yu'os Ma'ase'" to the 12th Rota Municipal Council, Mr. Manuel F. Borja-Project Director Inetnon Amot Natibu/Ammwelil Safayal Faluwasch, Sinapalo Elementary School, Rota Junior High School, Rota High School, Rota Grace Christian School, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja School, Northern Marianas College-Tatachok Campus, Channel 5 Station, Dept. of Commerce, OPM-Rota, Mrs. Agnes Q. Taitano, Mr. Terrence Taisacan, Mr. Antonio K. Mesnagon, Jr., Mr. Kurt John Maratita-Student Coop. Trainee, and all DCCA & M.O.U. staff. **(PR)**

Benito Clan reunion meeting on April 30

This is to inform the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan Reunion" will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the residence of Prescilla T. Castro and Gloyd Martin in Kagman III, at 6pm. Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-5974 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. **(PR)**

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the general public that **JOON SUNG KIM** is no longer engaged with Saipan Gold Beach Hotel.

**The Management
Saipan Gold Beach Hotel**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position:	Field Office Representative	Opening Date: March 14, 2008
Salary:	PL 32-1, \$24,889.35 per annum to PL 32-5, \$30,246.74 per annum	Closing Date: April 14, 2008

Job Location: NMHC Field Office, Island of Rota, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, OR at the NMHC Rota Field Office, during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 14, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than April 14, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO**
Corporate Director

Old Man by the Sea cleanup on May 3

The Division of Environmental Quality Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash from Old Man by the Sea.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet on Saturday, May 3, 8am. Come join us and "pick it up!"

Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then it continues, if needed. This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "pick it up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. The last time brigade volunteers cleaned Old Man by the Sea was in May 2005.

For more information about volunteering, please contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, DEQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated use of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, DEQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Director of DEQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. DEQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

- 1. APPLICANT:** Anthony C. Guerrero, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950.
- 2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Parts 3 and 10 (Commonwealth Register Vol. 26 No. 09, September 24, 2004).
- 3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall is located inside the Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, at Latitude 15° 13' 35" N, Longitude 145° 43' 40" E, or approximately 1200 feet northwest of the Puerto Rico Dump, at a depth of 49 feet. This area is designated as Class A marine waters.
- 4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to issue a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit authorizing the continued operation of the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant and discharge of treated effluent to the Tanapag Harbor. The Sadog Tasi Plant has been designed and is presently operated to provide secondary treatment of municipal wastewater. The discharge of effluent from the Sadog Tasi plant has previously been authorized by different EPA NPDES permits and DEQ certifications, which the new permits are intended to replace.
- CUC has also applied for, and DEQ is proposing to accept, a Zone of Mixing (ZOM) extending 49 feet in all directions from outfall diffuser structure, in which initial dilution (mixing) of the treated effluent with seawater is allowed to occur, and beyond which water quality criteria must be met. The ZOM will apply not apply to toxic substances, which must meet CNMI criteria at the point of discharge ("end of pipe").
- 5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The discharge of secondary treated wastewater into the Tanapag Harbor is an ongoing activity which has been authorized by previous EPA and DEQ permits. Impacts include degradation of water quality to levels below that prescribed by the WQS within the immediate vicinity of the discharge, up and to the point defined by the proposed zone of mixing (ZOM). Beyond the ZOM, a certain degree of degradation is still be expected to occur for some distance as the effluent experiences further mixing with the surrounding marine waters, although not to the point where water quality criteria are exceeded. However, projected water quality calculations performed by USEPA suggest that the criteria for enterococci bacteria will be exceeded for some distance beyond the allowable zone of mixing. Additionally, previous monitoring data suggests that water quality criteria for silver, copper, nickel and zinc, which are toxic to marine life, may also be violated within the immediate vicinity of the outfall, but not beyond the zone of mixing.
- 6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:** The primary mitigation measures for the discharge of treated effluent are proper treatment plant operation and maintenance, and requirements (prohibitions) regarding the types of wastes and substances that can be disposed of into the public sewer system. Under the USEPA permit, CUC will be required to properly operate the treatment system and to regulate users of the sewer system. The mostly likely course of action to mitigate for previously recorded exceedences of toxic metals (silver, copper, nickel and zinc) will be for CUC to enforce their prohibitions on customers who are more likely than others to discharge such substances, such as photo shops and medical facilities.

Because the discharge is expected to violate the criteria for enterococci bacteria even with the allowance for mixing, USEPA is proposing to issue an administrative order (AO) shortly after issuing the permit, which may require CUC to install and operate additional treatment facilities, such as disinfection equipment, to meet the permit limitations.

Written comments and inquires should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 105Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A fair arbiter?

Virtually everyone who carries a credit card is subject to something called a binding mandatory arbitration agreement. So is almost anyone who owns a cellphone or who recently purchased a car from a dealer.

These agreements are often buried deep in the fine print of consumer contracts; they mandate that any dispute between the consumer and the company be resolved through private arbitration. That means a neutral third party—often a former judge—rules on the issue, and both sides are bound by the decision. Arbitration is generally cheaper and speedier than litigation. Surveys show that business strongly favors it, while consumers are also generally approving.

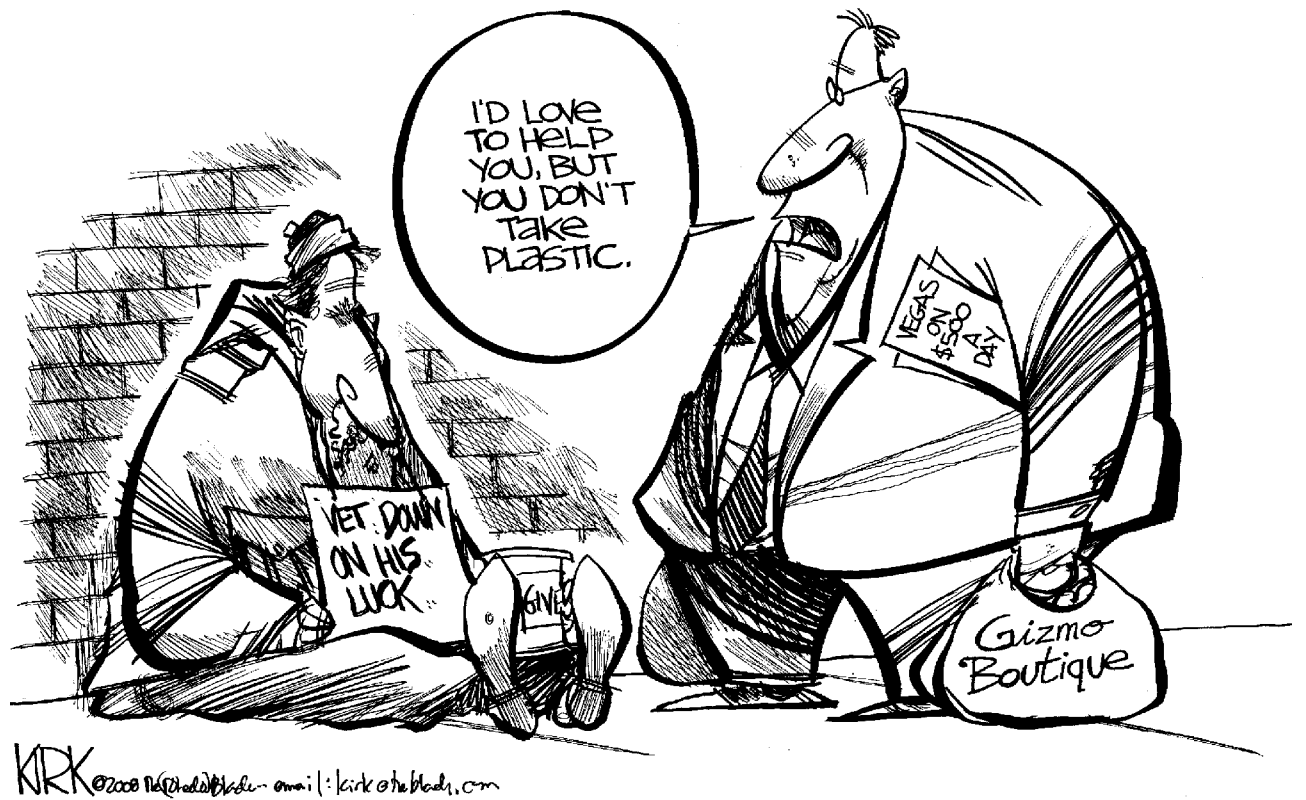
Still, binding mandatory arbitration provisions in consumer contracts have come under attack recently, and for some good reasons. Most consumers aren't aware that many of the contracts they sign include these provisions. Even those aware of the provisions are helpless to do anything about them because consumers generally must accept contracts in their entirety. And some provisions—such as those that force consumers to travel cross-country to attend arbitration hearings—can be unfair. Courts from time to time have struck down extreme provisions, but there are no uniform national standards. Several bills pending in Congress attempt to address these inequities.

Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., would prohibit binding mandatory arbitration provisions in all consumer and employment contracts; the bill allows arbitration only after a dispute arises and only if both parties agree. This goes too far and risks eliminating arbitration as a serious alternative to litigation for such routine matters as warranty disputes, as even some supporters of the bill acknowledge. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., provides a better framework to improve the system. Sessions's bill would, among other things, force companies to more prominently display arbitration provisions and provide an explanation of how the costs of the arbitration are to be split between consumer and business. The bill also would allow consumers to opt out of arbitration in favor of small-claims court. Any hearing would have to take place in a location convenient to the consumer, and arbitrators would be required to apply the laws of the state in which the consumer resides.

This week, Sens. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., and Herb Kohl, D-Wis., introduced legislation to ban mandatory arbitration clauses in nursing home contracts. This narrow exception may be warranted. Nursing home residents are among the most vulnerable in the country, and decisions to place family members in these facilities are often made under the most stressful of circumstances. Allowing residents or their families to sue may be the only way to prod nursing homes to improve care.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

NEWS ITEM: VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFF USE GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS TO PAY FOR LUXURY HOTELS AND RETAIL EXPENSES.



What are work ethics and how are yours?—Part II

Last week we briefly reviewed the history of the development of work ethics. We noticed that it has changed over the ages. Today we want to discuss how we can develop a sound work ethic. Our workers have not been exposed to the fierce competition that the non-resident workers have in their home country in whatever trade they pursue. Only recently is this fact being brought to our attention. Good jobs are competitive and the applicant must know the rules if he is to be hired.

Like other cultural norms, a person's adherence to or belief in the work ethic is principally influenced by socialization experiences during childhood and adolescence. Through interaction with family, peers, and significant adults, a person "learns to place value on work behavior as others approach him in situations demanding increasing responsibility for productivity." Based on praise or blame and affection or anger, a child appraises his or her performance in household chores, or later in part-time jobs, but his appraisal is based on the perspective of others. As a child matures, these attitudes toward work become internalized, and work performance becomes less dependent on the reactions of others.

Children are also influenced by the attitudes of others towards work. If a parent demonstrates a dislike for a job or a fear of unemployment, children will tend to assimilate these attitudes. **Parents who demonstrate a strong work ethic tend to impart a strong work ethic to their children.** I learned as a young boy seeing my father and mother rise at 5 A.M. to go to their bakery shop to bake bread and pastries.

Are there many examples of hard work and dedication to a job in the CNMI? Very few. Most of the workforce is employed by the government. The government, of course, has its own standards of work ethic which is drastically different from the private sector. Since many of the private businesses are owned by foreigners, little training is done to teach work ethics. The local force is expected to already possess one.

The schools must play a major role in fostering sound work ethics. Students should be constantly enlightened about what a work ethic is, and why it is important to success in the workplace. This teaching must become a component of secondary education. Neglecting this vital role results in a weak labor force that does not understand what a good work ethic is. Have our public schools dedicated themselves to this goal?

Let's explore a common myth about nonresident workers. Most of us tend to believe that they are driven by a strong work ethic. But upon close examination, this is not really true. We recruit them to work for us, and they willingly do. But they come here from dire need and desperation. Once they arrive, they learn the system quickly. Get your boss upset and he will send you home. So accept what is given you and keep your mouth shut. Tolerate the conditions. These workers compare the conditions from where they came to where they are now. Going home is not an option.

After working with hundreds of nonresident workers over 24

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



years, I can tell you many stories about being lied to, cheated, stolen money, and laziness. Many come here totally unsuited for the job they applied for. They fake their way into jobs. Many are not skilled at all.

But of course, there are many good, sincere, and honest nonresident workers that far out-weight the bad ones. I am proud to have had and still have many outstanding nonresident workers. I also have many good local workers of whom I am proud.

The majority of the local workforce has not had this opportunity. He lives at home, has plenty of friends, and is in his own environment. Then comes a time that he is forced to find a job. No one has trained or motivated him. He looks at the public sector which he has seen and learned about from relatives and friends. So he compares that to the private sector. As a result the new recruit expects in the private sector the same laid-back attitude and terms and conditions that the government offers his father or auntie.

When he finds that they are different, he rebels: "No one said I have to be on time and put out X amount of work and listen carefully and follow my boss' orders or get sent home. Man, I quit. I can make more money collecting food stamps." Does this sound familiar? Nowhere does it state that the employee is lazy or indifferent to work. He just doesn't understand that the rules of the private sector and the public sector are different which should not be the case.

I firmly believe that our local people are as intelligent and as trainable as any worker whether he is a U.S. citizen or a non-resident worker. Our local people need to realize that work is necessary for a decent life. Uncle Sam cannot keep handing our doles. We must accept that the minimum wage has been terribly abused and should be paid only to non-skilled workers. A skilled employee deserves top wages.

In these two articles I am not offering solutions to our labor problems, but I emphasize that unless we find solutions fast, we will be always dependent upon outsiders to help us. I am asking us to change how we do and think about things. A strong nation is only as strong as its trained and educated workforce. Let's recognize the problem and begin solving it. Our local workers are trainable if given the chance and opportunity. Let's start now!

We have wasted years and millions of dollars and produced little with our efforts. Unless we train a skilled and literate work force, we

See **WHAT** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

From Sheyang with love

"Some were brought to work in garment factories. Others arrived in the CNMI, only to find that there was no job waiting for them, and were forced to find unpalatable means to work off their bondage debt." — Sen. Daniel Inouye (Hawaii) in a speech backing S. 2739 as quoted in Saturday's *Saipan Tribune*.

Senator Inouye told no lie. Just how well he understands the ways Saipan garment factory workers "find unpalatable means to work off their bondage debt" is probably more than just idle speculation. Having been neighbor to his campaign headquarters in downtown Honolulu during the 1998 U.S. Senate reelection campaign while I was working as a planner for WorkHawaii, the city's workforce development program, I learned that there was normally a high level of integrity in the Senator's pronouncements. This telling serves to confirm the Senator's assertion.

The scene is familiar enough for those who have eyes to see. About a dozen often gaudily mascara'ed ladies, in their Sunday fineries and pointed heels, alight from three or four vehicles, scamper to a private dining room in one of downtown Garapan's eateries, and line up to be a commercial item of choice by visiting tourists seeking company for the night. And as quickly as they appear, they swiftly disappear as well, with not a few nursing battered self-esteem and cheapened sense of self-worth for not being chosen to provide the visiting guests' evening entertainment. On introspection, others bemoan the path they had taken; others craftily manage to compartmentalize their lives so that the means of livelihood becomes nothing but a business transaction without ramifications or consequence to their social and familial relations.

The above scene is so common and frequent that one gets the notion that it is a tolerated practice by Saipan's finest, whether in vehicle patrol or while pounding the concrete in their designated pedestrian routes.

From a brief sojourn in Sheyang, Jiangsu Province in China almost two weeks ago, I brought with me some clothes and jewelry from a mother for her daughter who had come to Saipan to work at one of the garment industry's factories. Sheyang prides herself as the center of the textile industry in China, and it has been a recruiting ground for personnel to staff various garment industry locations around the world.

This daughter was recruited by a family friend who was herself reputed to be on Saipan working in one of the garment factories. The recruiter did come to work with one of the garment factories earlier but quickly graduated into the evening entertainment industry when she was not rehired after the termination of her one-year contract. It normally took 410 days of labor at \$3.05/hr. to earn enough gross income to begin settling indebtedness, mostly incurred among loved ones and close friends back home. Failure to pay up after a period is

a considerable loss of face. This recruiter decided that her own superiors were making money out of the revolving turnstile of workers, so she went into recruiting workers also, graduating them into the entertainment industry, herself included. Her friend's daughter was one of her recruits.

The employment was simply enough. For a fee, a cooperating development corporation employs a contract worker as a commercial cleaner or as a waitress, with conniving paper pushers elsewhere. The employee is then farmed out to one of the garment factories who were only too happy to have more than an indentured compliant employee. In the economic downturn in Asia that began with the collapse of the Thai Baht in 1997, the Saipan garment industries began a spiral downspin into declining orders. With the continues supply of willing recruits paying up front the requisite fees, earlier recruits, without benefit of rights from labor laws, found themselves holding a huge bundle of indebtedness, and out into the streets of Saipan to fend for themselves.

This particular daughter, after a year, was introduced by her recruiter early on to earn extra mullah from kneading the tired flesh of tourists who pay for the services of a masseuse. Massage parlors were only too eager to engage such available workers to a three-month apprentice service to learn the state of the art. Apprentices also provide cheap, and often, maintenance-free labor. After the prescribed three months, the trainee turns into a certified practitioner and paid 10 percent (\$5 of the normal \$50/hr.) of the charge. They may also start providing additional sensual services appropriate to consenting adults in private quarters.

This daughter did, and she has since joined the ranks of those who scurry out of sedans driven by well-dressed pimps and mama-sans, to curry favors to those willing to pay for illicit services in this soft underbelly of the island's visitors industry.

While managing the Marianas Resource Center of the United Methodist Church in Oleai five years ago, we hosted five garment factory workers awaiting the resolution of their labor case against their employer, and one of the guests occasionally dressed up on the weekends to "join her friends at a party." No one, of course, was fooled. We were, however, clear that the efforts she put in was not commensurate to the income she was deriving, given the layer of middle-persons involved. The other three learned the lesson well and after their labor case was adjudicated and allowed transfer to another factory, they took entrepreneurial initiatives to conduct their own nocturnal enterprises.

The fifth one went back to Tanapag and rented herself a 6-by-12-foot room for the exorbitant price of \$250/mo. where she and three other girls bunked the rest of the contract year, enduring the accompanying grief after three break-ins and the lose of their valuables, and the constant harassment of panhandlers threatening harm if not given coffee money. It was this fifth guest, Jiang of Jiangsu, who

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



would return home to her husband and 7-year-old son, who would help host my recent visit to Sheyang in the river plains by the Chang Jiang, and get me familiar to some of the travails of her fellow co-workers who ventured their lives in the garment factories of Saipan. Of the five, she was the only one who returned.

The other four are somewhere else, perhaps, no longer indebted and may have even squirreled enough to start paying for a house for their families, but they seem to have appropriated the language of "bad luck," so common in Chinese mythology, and are unwilling to bring that bad luck back home to their loved ones. Theirs is a crisis of "face" not only as seen by others but as confronted everyday in the mirror of their bathrooms and their souls.

Now, the squeamish among us, as was the case of the Victorian Christians in the congregation (from various nationalities and culture), would question whether the sanctuary we provided to the workers only exacerbated the latency of their later endeavors. I had to remind them of the counsel of one of our blunt church member who worked for the Foreign Service and was fond of saying, "there are more prostitutes in suburban bedrooms than there are in the streets of any Hometown USA," her point being that the practice of offering sexual favors in exchange of financial security under the umbrella of marriage is as old as ancient civilization itself. The patina of moralism practiced in many quarters, had also been applied more to the lower working class than to the more refined practitioners in the more rarefied atmosphere of boardrooms and resort clubs. Witness the perverse adulation accorded our young lass that occasioned the downfall of Governor Spitzer of New York!

Now, back to the mother in Sheyang, and her daughter in the streets of Garapan. The mother wanted to visit her daughter who she thinks has financially prospered parlaying the deftness of her hands and fingers in the operation of sewing machines, oblivious of the fact that the same deftness has since served the more sensual requirements of strangers and customers. The daughter has since developed a neatly compartmentalized existence in her mind. A rather nondescript but pleasant young lady in the afternoon, she turns into a manly driven hold-no-prisoner determined barker ala a stock broker on the floor of the Chicago Stock Exchange, sure that the commod-

See **SHEYANG** on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

A call to defend our homeland against federalization

As president of TAOTAO TANO I call on our legislators to stand strong and proud in defending our homeland against the Federal Immigration Bill. We have the right to challenge the federal government in court to get rid of the Federal Immigration Bill altogether, and we should do that. I read in the news that Americans all over the country are challenging the federal government in the courts on these immigration issues about guest workers because they do not like the heavy hand that the federal government lays on local people.

The federal government will try to buy us off. I know that they will threaten our legislators with keeping down federal aid in our time of need, and they will suggest that if we only give up our right to sue, they will open the federal wallet and help us. Well, we know how that works. They open the federal wallet and then they have all kinds of strings attached to make us obey. I say to our legislators that this Federal Immigration Bill is wrong and we should stand up in court and say so. We have Mr. Willens, one of the best lawyers, working for us for free. So we can win and get rid of this insulting legislation. Do you really want Mr. Benedetto as King of Labor on this island?

As president of TAOTAO TANO I also have to respectfully rescind further discussions or dialogue with the foreign guest

workers on the issue of **long-term residency** here in our homeland. Although this a matter of economical benefits and the possibility of working together in one direction to address our current economic crisis in our homeland it is of great sensitivity to my local indigenous people of the land, the Chamorros and Carolinians. This is an issue best left alone until we win in the courts, and there is no more Federal Immigration Bill. Then it can be decided by the local community.

The last two (2) meetings we attended both in Kagman and in San Vicente sent out a clear message that there are pros and cons on the issue and as president of the TAOTAO TANO and an advocate for the indigenous local Northern Mariana Descent people of the land I want us to do the right thing, but I want to get rid of federalization first.

On the passage of the Federal Immigration Bill we do not believe that it is a victory to the foreign nonresident guest workers or human rights advocates but rather it is to their detriment and complete phase out in the years to come. It is important for everyone to read and fully understand the contents of all the Congressional bills that were drafted and introduced before U.S. Congress, all four (4) Bills stated clearly and loudly that our argument to remove the granting of non-immigrant provisions to foreigners in our homeland is a

complete victory to the TAOTAO TANO and that the federal issue had always been an argument between the CNMI and U.S. Congress for our right to self-governance as intended in our Covenant was challenged.

The removal of the non-immigrant provision on the Federal Immigration Bill speaks in volumes for itself for we are the one true voice in the Commonwealth. Now we must concentrate fully on an area of great importance and significant value and that is the protection of our culture, natural resources, and our heritage ensuring that we uphold the responsibility for our future generations. We must also be optimistic and open minded to any ideas or solutions presented before us for we are humble, respectable, and reasonable people of the land. There is an urgent need that we now set new course of direction to fully address and enforce a higher standard of living as intended in our Covenant in political union with the United States for the benefit of our people and our homeland as a whole. We the indigenous local Northern Mariana Descent people of the land can forgive but we must never forget the total disrespect inflicted upon us.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.

TAOTAO TANO president

WHAT

From Page 10

will eternally depend on non-resident workers. Let's concentrate on training our resident workers to become skilled trades' people.

Have we listened to our young people begging for the train-

ing they want? Strangely we are not listening to their pleas. Instead we argue among ourselves about what we feel they should have instead of what they want. Whenever we encourage them to find a job, we strongly encourage them to get a "government job." We keep thinking: "Forget the skilled trades. We have plenty of non-resident skilled workers willing to work for low wages." We need to change our attitude.






Those times have changed.

The above comments hopefully will cause us to think and decide on the positive and compelling need we have. Foreign investors are not the salvation to our islands. Our skilled and literate labor force that is willing to earn a living with their hands, hearts and minds is. This workforce is the main driving force to prosperity, pride and dignity for our people.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲81° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼77

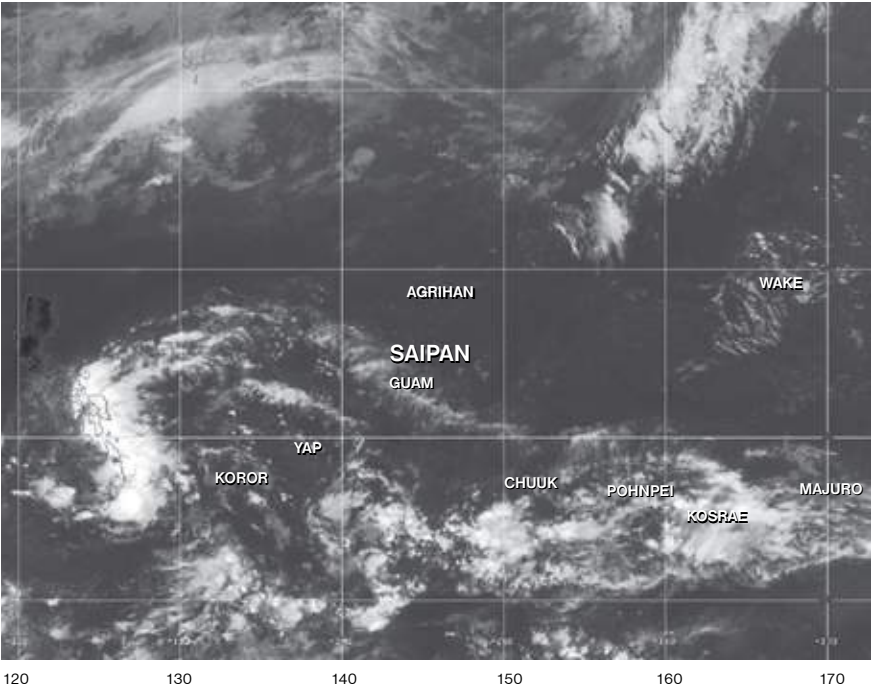
Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲71 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲79 ▼55
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼72
London	Showers	▲48 ▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77 ▼54
Manila	Cloudy	▲93 ▼81
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲66 ▼53
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼55
New York	Partly Sunny	▲53 ▼38
Osaka	Showers	▲64 ▼47
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▼34
Pusan	Sunny	▲70 ▼48
Rome	Cloudy	▲62 ▼41
Salem	Rain	▲50 ▼35
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼46
Seoul	Sunny	▲72 ▼45
Tokyo	Showers	▲59 ▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼38

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:12AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:37AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
1:53PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:31PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough associated with a tropical disturbance centered well west of 130E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west southwest of a line that extends from EQ135E to 9N130E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 3N142E to 4N158E and within 150 miles of a line from 4N158E to 4N174E. This area includes Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro but lies south of Chuuk and Kwajalein.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:31PM
Tuesday	6:03AM	6:31PM
Wednesday	6:02AM	6:32PM
Thursday	6:02AM	6:32PM
Friday	6:01AM	6:32PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:24PM	1:43AM
Tuesday	2:18PM	2:27AM
Wednesday	3:10PM	3:07AM
Thursday	3:59PM	3:43AM
Friday	4:47PM	4:18AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SHEYANG

From Page 11

ity she is hawking at 29 has but a 2-yr. remaining market value, and she must hassle to build her nest egg while eluding the au-

thorities, placating her handlers, and hiding the details of her new career from Mom, her husband, and her son back in Sheyang.

Jiang asked that I prevail on Mom not to make the visit now, but to do it later, perhaps, in the winter when she can enjoy

the tropical weather best away from the Siberian winds of the plains. Putting on the face of my tertiary level of integrity, I did manage to ingrain in the mother a hope for a future visit, which I know has hardly a prospect of ever happening.

Letters to the Editor**Be aware of the futurity of your actions**

The Senate passed S2739, and now it goes to the house. Wendy and Dekada will have a big celebration. If it passes in the House and is signed there will be an even bigger fiesta. The real question is where will the contract workers be in a year or two? There seems to be a very real fear among those that are now cheering that they will be somewhere other than the CNMI. You have to be aware of

the futurity of your actions.

On second note, John Gourley has a very logical and valid professional opinion why the PEW monument is a bad idea for the CNMI. As a past participant of WPRFC representing the CNMI I also concur that it's a less than good idea. Lastly, the people (and government, i.e. elected representatives) of the CNMI ought to listen to Captain Patrick Ulechong's concerns

about Fred Nosek's marine business. Both Patrick and Fred were in the marine field in the CNMI well before I was, and I looked up to them and was later privileged to call them peers. If local citizens cannot prosper and make a living for their family from the tourists that come to the CNMI, why should anyone?

William Bamboo McCue
Wellington, FL

Federalization it is

Having the CNMI federalized is what can make the CNMI better. The local government cannot, however make things possible but rather make the people suffer. I totally agree with the federalization. I think that it is time that changes should occur in the CNMI.

Despite of everything the people have gone through, I am sure they are fed up with troubles and difficulties they encounter each day. It is a good

news though, that the U.S. Senate passed the bill for having the CNMI federalized. I know many individuals are not satisfied with this movement of having the CNMI federalized but they should understand that the economy is in bad shape and this wouldn't happen if the economy is good but it seems that it is pretty adverse.

Therefore, if this can possibly make the CNMI suitable then federalization is the key

for the economy to boost. There are many agencies that are under the federal government and i've seen the way they manage. They really know what they are doing and they know exactly how to handle the way things should be taken care of. Once and for all, the CNMI should be federalized. Thanks to the U.S. Senate.

Abigail Manglona
Yona, Guam



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

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- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

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- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
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- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
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- Computer literate and with driver's license;
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- Must be passionate about sports.

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- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
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If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!

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NO. GH08-051**

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FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES**

OPENING DATE: **APRIL 7, 2008** CLOSING DATE: **MAY 7, 2008**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("NMIRF"), charged with administering the Group Health & Life Insurance Program ("GHLIP"), a separate and distinct trust component of the NMIRF, is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide group life insurance coverage to employees and retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Government. To receive the RFP packet, you must fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Business

IMF head warns about food prices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the International Monetary Fund warned Saturday that if food prices remain high, there will be dire consequences for people in many developing countries, especially in Africa.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn added that the problem could also create trade imbalances that would affect major advanced economies, "so it is not only a humanitarian question."

With governments in Haiti, Egypt and the Philippines among others already facing

social unrest because of rising food prices and shortages, Strauss-Kahn said that if the price spike continues, "Thousands, hundreds of thousands of people will be starving. Children will be suffering from malnutrition, with consequences for all their lives."

Earlier Saturday, Germany's development minister, who is attending the World Bank's meeting Sunday, called for greater regulation of the global biofuels market to prevent its expansion from driving up food prices.

"It is unacceptable for the export of agrofuels to pose a threat to the supply situation of the very people already living in poverty," Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul said in a statement.

She said the world needs new rules that balance goals, including climate change mitigation, food security and social development.

The development group Oxfam, a frequent IMF critic, said rich countries are largely responsible for the food crisis because they have been cutting

aid to developing countries and encouraging biofuel production, which the IMF says is responsible for almost half the increase in the demand for food crops.

"Rich countries' demand for

biofuel is driving up food prices and is a big part of the problem," said Elizabeth Stuart, an Oxfam policy adviser. "Meanwhile, by cutting aid levels, they are doing precious little to be part of the solution."

Strauss-Kahn spoke at a news conference after a daylong meeting of the steering committee of the 185-nation IMF, which dealt with the unfolding global financial crisis that has affected economies around the world.

World finance leaders tackle bank reform

WASHINGTON (AP)—World financial leaders facing the gravest economic crisis in at least a decade are pledging tighter control of banks and other financial institutions and hoping the U.S. slump is short.

The 185-nation International Monetary Fund and the World Bank readied for weekend discussions following talks among the world's seven richest industrial countries.

The IMF, the lender of last resort for countries in trouble, is facing its own hard times. One proposal on the agenda would trim 15 percent of the agency's staff and sell about \$11 billion in the institutions' vast gold reserves.

Overshadowing the sessions was the severe credit crisis, which could result in losses approaching \$1 trillion before it is over, according to an IMF estimate released this week.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson assured the IMF's

policy-setting panel on Saturday that the Bush administration was dealing aggressively with the U.S. slowdown, but that risks remain.

"The weak housing market, together with high energy prices and stress in financial markets, is penalizing U.S. economic growth," he said. "We must expect more bumps in the road."

Paulson said that while there is no magic remedy "to prevent the excesses of the past from reoccurring, working together we can strengthen market discipline, enhance risk management and improve the efficiency and stability of our capital markets."

The European Economic and Monetary Affairs commissioner, Joaquin Almunia, said economic uncertainty has increased, the financial turmoil has affected advanced countries and the risk of a U.S. recession has risen. He contended the European Union was in

"a relatively favorable position to absorb the effects of the financial turmoil."

The world's economic powers endorsed a plan Friday to keep closer watch over big banks, investment houses and other financial firms. These institutions have reported billions of dollars in losses from the credit crisis. The problem began with the widespread defaults on subprime mortgages in the United States, but quickly spread to other types of global investments.

Announcement of the tighter oversight came in a joint statement after talks among the Group of Seven nations—the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. other types of investments around the world.

"The turmoil in global financial markets remains challenging and more protracted than we had anticipated," G-7 officials said.



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, right, and Italy's Minister of Economy and Finance Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa, center, speak with reporters during the IMF's Spring meetings in Washington, Saturday, April 12, 2008.

Democrat blames weak economy on Iraq war

WASHINGTON (AP)—The growing cost to the United States of fighting the war in Iraq "is not only linked to our economic skid, but is a leading cause of it," a Democratic congressman said Saturday.

Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky linked the costly, unpopular war with the growing economic troubles—some say recession—in this country.

Yarmuth said in the Democrats' weekly radio address that the testimony this week of Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker

about the Iraq war served as reminder of the billions of dollars being poured into Iraq as the U.S. economy struggles.

"General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker failed to offer a plan to change direction in Iraq and redeploy our troops," Yarmuth said. "Instead, they offered more of the same, with U.S. troops and taxpayers paying the price."

The U.S. government has spent "more than half-a-trillion dollars" in support of the war effort, while that money could be spent on pressing needs in this

country, he said.

In February, an Associated Press-Ipsos poll found that pulling out of Iraq was the most named remedy for fixing U.S. economic problems.

Forty-eight percent of those surveyed said a withdrawal would help the country's economic problems "a great deal" and 20 percent more said it would help somewhat. Some 43 percent said increasing government spending on health care, education and housing programs would help a great deal; 36 percent named cutting taxes.

American returns all MD-80s to service

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines on Saturday received clearance from federal aviation officials to return all of its 300 grounded jets to service, an airline spokesman said.

After 200 cancellations Saturday morning, Fort Worth-based American was running a full schedule by the afternoon with no cancellations, said spokesman Charley Wilson.

Starting Tuesday, the nation's largest airline canceled nearly 3,300 flights, as it grounded 300 MD-80 jets to wrap wiring bundles to meet federal safety

standards and prevent fires.

The cancellations stranded hundreds of thousands of people during the week.

American said 226 of its MD-80s were back in service by Friday morning. By noon on Saturday, the airline had received clearance to return all the remaining grounded jets to service, Wilson said.

The groundings had come as a surprise.

American officials said they thought they had the needed repair work completed two weeks ago when it scrubbed

more than 400 flights, but the Federal Aviation Administration said the wiring still was not secured and stowed properly in wheel wells.

Gerard Arpey, chairman and chief executive of American parent AMR Corp., said the costs of the cancellations to American will run into the tens of millions of dollars—including vouchers to reimburse stranded customers, overtime for maintenance crews and lost revenue. An analyst with Standard & Poor's estimated it could easily top \$30 million.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chevron, Total seek oil deal in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Oil giants Chevron Corp. and Total have confirmed that they are in discussions with the Iraqi Oil Ministry to increase production in an important oil field in southern Iraq. The discussions are aimed at finalizing a two-year deal, or technical support agreement, to boost production at the West Qurna Stage 1 oil field near Iraq's second-largest city of Basra. Chevron and Total confirmed their involvement in the discussions in e-mails received Saturday by The Associated Press. "Chevron is interested in helping the Iraq government's objectives to develop its oil and gas industry," Chevron spokesman Kurt Glaubitz said in an e-mail. Total spokeswoman Lisa Wyler confirmed the French company's involvement. Basra, about 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, has been the scene of sporadic attacks and clashes since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. The latest fighting broke out March 25 when the government launched an operation against Shiite militants, who remain in control of several neighborhoods.

Market bellwether GE sees profit drop

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—General Electric Co. CEO Jeff Immelt was expected to tell the world Friday how the conglomerate's global strategy had paid off and allowed it to ride out the credit crisis. Instead, he found himself defending the company's business model after GE shocked investors with lower-than expected earnings and a profit warning that wiped \$46.9 billion off GE's value and sent the overall market slumping. Fairfield-based GE, which typically

hits its targets, reported that profit fell 6 percent, to \$4.3 billion, or 43 cents per share, from \$4.57 billion a year earlier. Earnings from continuing operations came to \$4.4 billion, or 44 cents per share, down 8 percent. That was well below the 51 cents per share expected by analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial for profit from continuing operations. The company itself had forecast a profit of 50 cents to 53 cents per share.

Calls against big CEO pay grow louder

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street's high-rolling CEOs live a lifestyle that would make Hollywood movie stars jealous—penthouse apartments, private jets, and paychecks tipping \$60 million a year. Corporate boards in recent years have rubber-stamped generous bonus packages for an elite set of executives, a reflection of a go-go stock market and soaring profits. Now, as the credit crisis roils Wall Street and decimates stock prices, shareholders are demanding a voice. Fund managers and individual investors alike are campaigning for a "say on pay" rule giving shareholders a vote on executive compensation at major corporations, especially America's biggest banks. This is the latest salvo in the battle against Wall Street's exorbitance, and this time it appears shareholders might stand a chance. Timothy Smith, a senior vice president at Boston-based Walden Asset Management, nearly pulled off a "say on pay" resolution at Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s annual meeting Thursday. The proposal garnered 43 percent of the vote, despite strong recommendations for its rejection from Chief Executive Lloyd Blankfein and the investment bank's board.

Nation

Obama's remarks give Clinton an opening

MISHAWAKA, Ind. (AP)—A political tempest over Barack Obama's comments about bitter voters in small towns has given rival Hillary Rodham Clinton a new opening to court working class Democrats 10 days before Pennsylvanians hold a primary that she must win to keep her presidential campaign alive.

Obama tried to quell the furor Saturday, explaining his remarks while also conceding he had chosen his words poorly.

"If I worded things in a way that made people offended, I deeply regret that," Obama said in an interview with the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal.

But the Clinton campaign fueled the controversy in every place and every way it could, hoping charges that Obama is elitist and arrogant will resonate with the swing voters the candidates are vying for not only in Pennsylvania, but in upcoming primaries in Indiana and North Carolina as well.

Political insiders differed on whether Obama's comments, which came to light Friday, would become a full-blown political disaster that could prompt party leaders to try to steer the nomination to Clinton even though Obama has more pledged delegates. Clinton supporters

were eagerly hoping so.

They handed out "I'm not bitter" stickers in North Carolina, and held a conference call of Pennsylvania mayors to denounce the Illinois senator. In Indiana, Clinton did the work herself, telling plant workers in Indianapolis that Obama's comments were "elitist and out of touch."

At issue are comments he made privately at a fundraiser in San Francisco last Sunday. He was trying to explain his troubles winning over some working-class voters, saying they have become frustrated with economic conditions:

"It's not surprising, then, they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

The comments, posted Friday on *The Huffington Post* Web site, set off a blast of criticism from Clinton, Republican nominee-in-waiting John McCain and other GOP officials, and drew attention to a potential Obama weakness—the image some have that the Harvard-trained lawyer is arrogant and aloof.

His campaign scrambled to defuse possible damage.

Rangers talk to man in polygamist probe

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Texas law enforcers met Saturday in Utah with the man accused of abusing the 16-year-old girl whose call for help triggered a raid on the West Texas compound of a secretive polygamous sect.

Dale Barlow, 50, of Colorado City, Ariz., has denied allegations of physical and sexual assault made in a whispered March 29 telephone call to a Texas domestic violence hot line.

Tela Mange, a spokeswoman for

the Texas Department of Public Safety, offered few details of the interview between Barlow and Texas Rangers.

"We have not made an arrest in this case and may not necessarily make one today," she said.

A telephone message left at Barlow's home by The Associated Press was not returned.

Barlow has said he doesn't know the girl, whom Texas child welfare officials have not located.

In her phone call, the girl said that

she was pregnant with her second child and that her husband beat her about the head and chest when angry. She said she was trapped and not allowed to leave the Yearn for Zion Ranch in Eldorado.

The ranch is owned by members of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, whose members believe practicing polygamy will bring exaltation in heaven.

The faith's members have traditionally made their homes along the Arizona-

Utah border, but in 2003 purchased the 1,700-acre former game preserve about 40 miles south of San Angelo.

Barlow spent 45 days in the Mohave County, Ariz., jail last year after pleading no contest to a charge of conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor. He is a registered sex offender on probation and can't leave the state without permission. Bill Loader, his probation officer, has said he saw Barlow in Arizona a day after the Texas raid.

Cereal link to food poisoning is probed

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—At least 23 people in 14 states have been sickened by the same strain of salmonella found in two breakfast cereals recalled by Malt-O-Meal, the federal Food and Drug Administration said Saturday.

Officials in Minnesota are investigating whether a case in that state might be linked to the cereals produced by the Minneapolis-based company, the state health department said.

Malt-O-Meal voluntarily recalled its unsweetened Puffed Rice and Puffed Wheat cereals April 5 after finding salmonella contamination during routine testing. The affected bags were produced in the past 12 months in Northfield.

"The Malt-O-Meal company has been extremely cooperative in this investigation and has done the right

thing to protect the public's health," Heidi Kassenborg, director of the dairy and food inspection division at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, said in a statement.

Three people have been hospitalized, but no deaths have been reported, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Symptoms of salmonella infection include nausea, vomiting, fever, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. It can be life-threatening for people with poor health or weakened immune systems, including young children and the elderly.

The FDA said people who experience such symptoms after eating a puffed wheat or puffed rice cereal made by Malt-O-Meal should contact their doctors and report the illness to state or local health authorities.

Benedict XVI ready to meet America

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Next up for Pope Benedict XVI: a welcoming nation that wants to get to know him.

Benedict's first trip to the United States as pope begins Tuesday—a five-day visit to Washington and New York, including a speech at the United Nations. Anyone expecting strident speeches from the man once called "God's rottweiler" for his role defending Roman Catholic doctrine will be disappointed.

Benedict will deliver an unwavering message that society needs religious values, but this intellectual pontiff will do it in the most positive way possible. After making relatively little headway in his efforts to re-ignite the faith in Europe, America's roughly 65 million Catholics seem anxious to hear him.

"He has a way of helping us see what the Gospel and what the Catholic faith tradition asks of us that is challenging and not frightening," Washington Archbishop Donald Wuerl, Benedict's host in the first leg of the five-day trip, told The Associated Press.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, notes that "religion is deeply rooted in American life despite the separation of church and state."

A March poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press found nearly three-quarters of U.S. Catholics viewed Benedict positively. Among the U.S. public at large, 52 percent viewed the pope favorably, but about one-third said they didn't know enough about him to answer.



PLANE CRASH

Utility crews shut off the natural gas flow to a home where a plane crashed into it in Compton, Calif. on Saturday, April 12, 2008. A small airplane crashed into a home several blocks from the Compton Airport injuring five people, three on the ground and two from the aircraft. Four of the victims were reported to be in critical condition.

ACROSS THE NATION

Teen held in identical twin's death

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The death of Dennis Lewis was shocking enough: The National Honor Society student and marching band member was shot in his bedroom while masked robbers held a gun on his mother in another room. Then police arrested his identical twin, an advanced placement student also active in their high school band. Authorities are accusing Deris Lewis of taking part in the attack and being an accomplice in his brother's death, saying his bloody palm print was found in the bedroom where Dennis was killed. The family, crushed by the death of one twin, is adamant the other is innocent. "There's no way, shape or form that my brother was even in that house," said the boys' older sister, Diane Lewis, who lives two doors from where the shooting happened. "He would never put my mom in harm's way whatsoever—she didn't raise killers or criminals." Deris is charged in juvenile court with being an accomplice to aggravated murder, aggravated robbery and kidnapping. Because he turned 18 two weeks after the shooting, prosecutors are seeking to have him charged as an adult. Authorities won't say what Deris Lewis is accused of doing. They say the motive that night was robbery but won't elaborate.

Dalai Lama urges hope for the future

SEATTLE (AP)—Still avoiding direct discussion of the situation in Tibet, the Dalai Lama on Saturday urged people to have hope for the future and to look past a century of bloodshed and toward a period of dialogue. The spiritual leader of Tibet delivered his keynote speech to more than 50,000 people during the second day of a five-day conference on compassion. Before the Dalai Lama's speech, Lama Tenzin Dhonden, a Tibetan monk who spearheaded the Seeds of Compassion event, told the crowd that Tibet seeks only autonomy. "Granting autonomy would be good for Tibet and also good for China, but autonomy requires China's commitment to serious dialogue," he said. The Dalai Lama says he will address the crisis in Tibet at a news conference early Sunday. Organizers of the Seeds of Compassion say the event is essentially nonpolitical, but references to Tibet have been sprinkled throughout the first two days. This century has become one of bloodshed, the Dalai Lama said.

Online reservations only at NYC hot spot

NEW YORK (AP)—When one of the hottest chefs in town opened his newest creation, Momofuku Ko, the rich, powerful and influential immediately set about trying to land a reservation the easy way. They appealed to the chef. So far, they've had little luck. Ruth Reichl, editor-in-chief of *Gourmet* magazine, asked David Chang for the hook up. Sorry, he told her. A former top Microsoft executive asked too. Same answer: Nope. Chang even shut down a top New York chef. Can't do it, he said. "I've said no to a lot of people," Chang said. "We are not making exceptions. If my parents want to eat there, they have to make a reservation too. It's really quite simple. If we do it for one person, we'd have to do for everybody." Chang has caused a stir in New York, instituting an online reservation system for tiny Ko's 12 counter seats. It's meant to level the playing field in a city where money and prestige usually ensure access.

Asia

Taiwan VP-elect meets China's Hu

BOAO, China (AP)—Taiwan's next vice president sat down with Chinese leader Hu Jintao for a brief but historic chat Saturday, raising hopes that the rivals would begin to ease six decades of hostilities.

The meeting between Hu and Vincent Siew marked the first time such a high-ranking elected figure from Taiwan visited a Chinese president since the two sides split in 1949, when Communists took over Beijing and

Taiwan refused to be ruled by the new government.

The 20-minute talk, held on the sidelines of a conference between business and world leaders on Hainan Island, was largely symbolic, focusing on boosting economic ties.

Siew, a 69-year-old technocrat and economics expert, said the meeting was "friendly," and he left with a positive impression of Hu. "I believe he's a pragmatic man,"

he told reporters.

Hu said that both sides faced a historic opportunity and they should work together for more progress, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency reported early Sunday. He said Beijing wanted to "think deep about cross-Straits economic exchanges and cooperation under the new circumstances."

China has repeatedly threatened to attack Taiwan if the island of 23 million people

refuses to unify eventually. Washington has warned Beijing that U.S. forces might defend the island—one of Asia's most vibrant democracies. America sent aircraft carriers to the Taiwan Strait in 1996 when China tested missiles close to Taiwan.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was attending the Boao conference, said the meeting was "very good news for the region."

"The two sides have begun down a new path. ... I think

we are at the beginning of a new phase in relations between the parties in Asia," he told reporters after meeting with Siew on Sunday.

Relations have been especially bumpy under outgoing Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian. Beijing was deeply suspicious of Chen, who steps down next month, even before he was elected in 2000 because his Democratic Progressive Party leans toward formal independence for Taiwan.

Beijing appears to favor

Siew and his Nationalist Party political partner, President-elect Ma Ying-jeou. They were elected last month after promising voters they would soothe relations with China—just 100 miles across the Taiwan Strait.

Neither oppose unification, but they insist the thorny issue is best settled by future generations. Most Taiwanese feel deeply uneasy about being part of the mainland as long as it is undemocratic and controlled by the Communist Party.



Taiwan's Vice President-elect Vincent Siew, center, speaks at a briefing after his meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the BOAO Forum in Boao, Saturday, April. 12, 2008 in southern China's Hainan province.

Maoist leader wins seat in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—After spending a decade leading a communist insurgency in the mountains of Nepal, former top rebel Prachanda became the newest member Saturday of an assembly that will chart the Himalayan country's future.

Prachanda, whose rebel nom de guerre means "the fierce one," led a powerful showing by the former Maoists rebels in early results from Thursday's elections. The vote is expected to usher in sweeping changes

to the Himalayan country and likely signals the end of a 239-year-old royal dynasty.

The Maoists, who are still considered a terrorist group by the United States, have so far won 20 out of the 34 constituencies where counting has been completed, the Election Commission said Saturday.

"This victory is a command by the Nepali people to establish lasting peace," Prachanda, 54, told reporters after the result was announced. "We are fully

committed to the peace process and multiparty democracy and to rebuild this country."

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, whose Carter Center sent 62 observers to monitor the election, described the election as one of the "most profoundly important" ones he has witnessed. He said it marked the end of a decade of political violence and the likely transformation of Nepal from a Hindu kingdom to a democratic republic.

9 monks accused of bombing in Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—China has arrested nine Buddhist monks and accused them of planting a homemade bomb in a government office building in Tibet last month, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

There were no known deaths or damage from the first reported bombing since anti-government protests by monks began March 10 in the Tibetan capital Lhasa.

Xinhua said that nine monks from Tongxia monastery confessed to taking part in the bombing in Gyanbe

Township in Tibet on March 23. One of the suspects allegedly used a motorcycle to transport the bomb to the building, where it was planted by the rest and then detonated, the news agency said.

Xinhua did not explain why the alleged incident was not reported earlier.

A man who answered the phone at the local Gongjue county Public Security Bureau confirmed that nine suspects had been detained—six for planting the bomb and three for shielding the suspects and

covering up their crimes. The man refused to give his name because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

A woman at the Tibetan Regional Public Security Department said she was not sure about the case because it was still under investigation. She also declined to be named.

The protests in Lhasa turned violent on March 14, with hundreds of shops torched and Chinese civilians attacked. China says 22 people were killed in the riots, and more than 1,000 have already been detained.

SKorea to North: Drop nuclear program

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president renewed his call Sunday for North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons programs and said Seoul is ready for talks with Pyongyang.

South Korea wants to persuade the North that abandoning its nuclear programs "is in its interest," President Lee Myung-bak said in a news conference ahead of his trip to the United States for talks with President Bush.

Lee also said South Korea is prepared for talks with North Korea if they help to resolve the North's nuclear impasse and improve the livelihood of North Koreans.

"The door is open," Lee said.

Relations between the two divided Koreas have worsened since Lee took office in February with a pledge to get tough on Pyongyang. Lee, who ended a decade of liberal rule in which South Korea sought to reconcile with the North, said inter-Korean ties "are going through an adjustment period."

North Korea has test-fired missiles and leveled harsh personal rhetoric against Lee, and threatened to reduce the South to "ashes."

The North has also expelled South Korean officials from an industrial zone and a South Korean-run mountain resort in the

North—two prominent symbols of inter-Korean reconciliation.

Lee's comments came days after the U.S. suggested it was backing off on a demand that has hung up disarmament talks.

Negotiations have been stalled for months over whether Pyongyang has met its requirement to fully declare its atomic programs under an agreement reached last year with the U.S. and other regional powers.

North Korea has claimed it gave the U.S. a nuclear list in November. But Washington has said the North never produced a "complete and correct" list that would address all its past atomic activity.



ASIAN BRIEFS

24 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan and foreign troops clashed with and called airstrikes on militants in southern Afghanistan, leaving 24 dead and eight wounded, an official said Saturday. The fighting was in two separate mountainous areas of Zabul province late Friday, said provincial deputy governor Ghulab Shah Alikheil. The operation was aimed at militants responsible for Tuesday's ambush on a road construction crew in the province that left 17 people killed and 16 others wounded, Alikheil said. There were no casualties among the joint forces, he said. Road-building is a key part of Afghan reconstruction and many projects are in remote, insurgency-plagued areas. Militants have targeted work crews in roadside bomb attacks, ambushes and kidnappings, killing and wounding dozens of workers and their private security guards.

Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants bomb cathedral, bank in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants bombed a Roman Catholic cathedral compound and a bank Sunday in the southern Philippines, police said. No one was injured in the blasts. Police have been placed on the highest level of security following the dawn explosions in Zamboanga city, regional police Chief Superintendent Jaime Caringal said. Government troops and police had already tightened security in the town for a weeklong national sports festival, he said. Zamboanga, about 860 kilometers (530 miles) south of Manila, is home to U.S. troops providing counterterrorism training to Filipino soldiers. The military says the

area is home to more than 300 armed members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf terror group.

Official: Malaysia PM discusses handover

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's prime minister will discuss plans to step down but not before next year, a party official said Saturday, acknowledging calls for his resignation after the ruling coalition fared poorly in last month's elections. Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told party officials at a private meeting late Friday that he will discuss a succession plan with his deputy, Najib Razak, the party official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements. Abdullah, speaking to reporters after the talks, acknowledged demands by some officials in the ruling United Malays National Organization party that he resign.

Bangladesh workers launch wage protest

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—About 10,000 textile workers clashed with police on Saturday near Bangladesh's capital during protests demanding better wages to meet higher food prices, a police official said. Dozens of people including at least 20 police officials were injured in the violence at Fatullah outside Dhaka, local police station official Angur Akter said by telephone. The protesters went on rampage, attacking factories and smashing vehicles, for better wages so that they can face higher food prices, she said. The security officials used tear gas to disperse the protesters who retaliated with bricks and stones, she said. Workers from about 20 factories took part in the protest, she said.

World

Mugabe skips regional summit on Zimbabwe

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP)—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe skipped a regional summit Saturday addressing the deepening crisis over the country's contentious presidential election, giving southern African leaders little chance to step up the pressure on him.

The summit reflected Mugabe's growing isolation, as well as cracks in the usually uniform solidarity shown toward him by the Southern African Development Community. Mugabe, who has been in power 28 years, is the region's longest-serving president.

After meeting with Mugabe in Zimbabwe, South African President Thabo Mbeki said "there is no crisis." But at the summit, Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa urged his counterparts to "focus on helping Zimbabwe to find an answer that generally reflects the will of the Zimbabwean people."

Mwanawasa said he called the summit because of the failure of Zimbabwean officials to publish the results of March 29 presidential election. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who says he won the election outright, was invited to address the delegates, an unprecedented move that further alienated Mugabe.

The meeting ended just before



Zimbabweans listen to President Robert Mugabe speaking on national television in Harare, Saturday, April, 12, 2008. **AP**

dawn Sunday with a declaration that called on the speedy verification of Zimbabwe's election results. Delegates rushed away and refused to answer questions, leaving Zambia Foreign Affairs Minister Kabinga Pande to echo Mbeki's statement that Zimbabwe is not facing a crisis.

"We listened to both parties, the opposition and the government, and both have said there is no crisis," Pande said.

The declaration by the summit's delegates did not call for the immediate announcement of the election results, but for their expeditious verification in the presence of the candi-

dates or their agents "within the rule of law." The declaration also urged "all parties to accept the results when they are announced."

If a runoff election is required, Zimbabwe's government is urged to ensure the it is held in a secure environment, the declaration said.

Iraq: Shiite confessions lead to mass grave

BAGHDAD (AP)—Confessions from Shiite militiamen led Saturday to the discovery of 15 more bodies dumped in mass graves south of Baghdad, officials said - the second such find this week.

Women shrouded in black and holding family photos rushed to the muddy field in Mahmoudiya in hopes of finding missing loved ones as new information emerges on past sectarian bloodletting.

The grisly discovery came two days after the Iraqi troops found the remains of 30 people believed to have been killed more than a year ago buried in three abandoned houses else-

where in the area.

Mass graves have been turning up with increasing frequency as American and Iraqi military operations have cleared former militant strongholds, allowing troops to step up patrols in previous no-go zones.

But the others have all been mainly in Sunni areas in Anbar province to the west and Diyala to the north of the capital. Those areas had been dominated by al-Qaida in Iraq until the group's brutal tactics helped turn Sunni tribal leaders against it.

The U.S. military said the mass graves unearthed in Mahmoudiya were the first found in the area south

of Baghdad, long known as the triangle of death before a recent decline in violence.

The remains were found after recently detained militia leaders confessed to killing dozens of Sunnis as well as Shiite rivals and burying the bodies in the abandoned houses and adjacent fields, according to Iraqi army and city officials.

The find offered new evidence of the atrocities carried out by Shiite death squads that were known for their trademark kidnappings and execution-style killings until they were reined in by an Aug. 29 ceasefire by anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-

Sadr, the leader of the feared Mahdi Army militia.

Bullet-riddled bodies continue to turn up on the streets of Baghdad and other cities, but the numbers are now in the single digits instead of the dozens. An ongoing violent standoff between al-Sadr's fighters and U.S.-backed Iraqi troops has raised concerns the truce could be at risk.

Thirteen of the bodies found Saturday had been dumped in one grave about 500 yards away from the local office of al-Sadr's movement, while two others were buried together in a nearby area, city spokesman Ather Kamil said.

Libya allegedly went on gun-buying spree

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—The Libyan officer tried to cloak the purpose of his call to the Italian arms dealer. "A friend," he said, wanted to buy 1 million "pieces" and 50 million items of "food."

But when that phone call was placed in 2006, Italian police were listening. They knew the meaning. Libya was shopping for guns—lots of them.

Authorities shadowed the negotiations between Libyan officials and a group of black-market dealers from across Italy for a year before they moved in and broke up what would have been a \$64 million deal for hundreds of thousands of Chinese-made assault rifles.

The case, detailed in documents obtained by The Associated Press, raises questions about whether Libya, a country eagerly shedding its reputation as a sponsor of terrorism, is still surreptitiously supporting suspect groups and regimes. The investigation also underscores the Italian underworld's role as a go-between for illegal arms deals.

The court papers say at least part of the shipment was expected to go to other countries, and experts believe likely destinations were African countries including war-torn Chad and Sudan, where killings of civilians are widespread.

Libyan officials did not respond to questions from the AP about the allegations.

Italian prosecutors say the deal involved hundreds of thousands of dollars in kickbacks to senior Libyan officials.

Italy was a natural place for them to shop.

"Organized crime syndicates ... use Italy for brokering or transshipping illegal arms transfers to the Balkans, Africa, the United States and Colombia, in a trade that includes cocaine and human trafficking," said Sergio Finardi, a military logistics expert at TransArmsEurope, a nonprofit group based in Italy and the United States that monitors arms deals.

Bomb kills 9 at mosque in southern Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A bomb explosion in a mosque packed with hundreds of worshippers in southern Iran killed at least nine people and injured more than 100 Saturday, local media reported.

The semi-official Fars news agency said the explosion in the city of Shiraz went off as a cleric was delivering his weekly speech against extremist Wahabi beliefs and the outlawed Bahai faith.

The report said nine people were killed and 105 injured, some of them critically. The force of the explosion shook houses more than a mile away, and ambulances and firefighters were rushing to the mosque, it said. Officials urged the public to donate blood and called all nurses in the city in on duty.

A police official said a homemade bomb caused the explosion, Fars reported. It also quoted a young woman who was there as saying some 800 worshippers were inside the mosque at the time of the explosion.

Bombings are unusual in Shiraz, a major draw for foreign tourists who come to see the ruins of nearby Perse-

polis, an ancient Persian kingdom that was a center for ceremonies and worship. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iran has faced several ethnic and religious insurgencies that have been behind rare but deadly attacks in recent years—though none have amounted to a serious threat to the government.

In February 2007, a car loaded with explosives blew up near a bus carrying members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, killing 11 of them and wounding more than 30 in southeastern Iran. A Sunni militant group that has been blamed for past attacks on Iranian troops claimed responsibility.

Some believe the group, known as Jundallah, is linked to al-Qaida. Jundallah, or God's Brigade, has waged a low-level insurgency in southeastern Iran.

Besides the violence in the southeast, ethnic Arab Sunni militants have been blamed for bombings in the western city of Ahvaz near the border of Iraq—including blasts in 2006 that killed nine people.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kenyan rivals reach deal on Cabinet

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga reached a deal Saturday on a coalition Cabinet, following protracted talks on implementing a power-sharing deal meant to end the political crisis over a disputed election, officials said. The officials said Kibaki and Odinga planned to announce the new Cabinet ministers Sunday afternoon. They reached the agreement after seven hours of talks outside the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks. Kibaki's spokesman Isaiya Kabira would not confirm the reports, but said there was a "good chance" a Cabinet could be announced Sunday. Kibaki and Odinga agreed in February to share power after weeks of postelection violence that left more than 1,000 dead 300,000 displaced. Observers said the Dec. 27 election was so flawed it is impossible to tell who won. The two leaders had not yet worked out how to implement the accord, with both sides trying to secure the most powerful positions in a new Cabinet.

Haiti prime minister forced to step down

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haitian lawmakers on Saturday dismissed the country's prime minister, hoping to defuse widespread anger over rising food prices that led to days of deadly protests and looting. President Rene Preval, who earlier announced plans to cut the price of rice, immediately said he would seek a replacement for the ousted Jacques Edouard Alexis. The prime minister took office in 2006 with Preval's backing to head a Cabinet meant to unite the poor and fractious nation. After Alexis' dismissal, when the country seemed to be calming, a U.N. police officer bringing food to his unit was pulled from a car and killed execution style in Port-au-Prince, U.N. sources said. Opposition Sen. Youri Latortue said lawmakers ousted the prime minister because he did not boost food production and refused to set a timetable for the departure of U.N. peacekeepers. "I think that will satisfy the people," he said after 16 senators out of 27 voted to remove the prime minister. But about 25 people gathered outside parliament after the dismissal, chanting "Aristide or death," in reference to exiled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

After 120 years, Norway gets opera house

OSLO, Norway (AP)—King Harald V opened Norway's long-awaited national opera house on the shores of the Oslo Fjord on Saturday, kicking off a gala performance before royalty, national leaders and music lovers. The Nordic nation's newest landmark, a stunning \$840 million building of white marble on the water's edge, fulfills a more than 120-year dream for Norwegian music fans used to watching the Norwegian Opera and Ballet in old downtown theaters. "At the innermost part of the Oslo Fjord, the opera house rises as a new and monumental landmark," King Harald said from his opera box in the spacious auditorium, as he pronounced the opera house open. "This house for many generations to come will be filled with music, dance and song." The Norwegian parliament's decision to approve construction and funding of a national opera house belatedly confirmed an overly optimistic 1881 report in an Oslo newspaper that the capital was about to get a new opera house. Funding problems and political debates contributed to the long delay.

Health & Fitness

Putting back pain beyond the bend

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Back pain is the bane of millions, but some simple exercises might help prevent and alleviate those aches and twinges.

These maneuvers don't just target the muscles surrounding the spine—they hit the abdominal and oblique muscles on the sides of the trunk, as well. Shoring up all the muscles around the back not only makes lifting heavy loads easier—it also allows for less pain during daily tasks such as gardening, getting in and out of the car or even sitting for hours in front of a computer.

The drills—including popular ones such as the front plank, side plank and bird dog—were presented recently at the American College of Sports Medicine's annual Health and Fitness Summit and Exposition in Long Beach, Calif., by Michael Bracko, a Calgary, Alberta-based exercise physiologist. At

a group participation session, he demonstrated key exercises—with modifications for beginning exercisers.

Bracko suggests that beginners start with the modified exercises, then work up to full-strength versions. Advanced exercisers can add weights to some of the drills. Positions should be held, if possible, for 10 to 20 counts, fostering muscle endurance. As your strength and endurance build, your counts can go longer and you can add more repetitions.

Modifications completed in a standing position (for office settings) can be done every day, but the more vigorous versions should be done every other day. Modify or stop the exercise at any sign of pain.

■ **Front plank:** Targets the abdominal muscles. Body is horizontal, face down, arms directly underneath the shoulders. Lower arms and toes support the body, and the back is straight.

Head is aligned with the spine.

Modification one: Knees and toes are on the floor. Back is straight.

Modification two: Arms are in the same position, but the exercise is done leaning against a wall. Back is straight.

Modification three (advanced): Increase the intensity by moving the elbows forward.

■ **Side plank:** Targets the obliques. Legs are crossed at the ankles, and the body's weight is supported by the feet and one forearm, with the elbow directly underneath the shoulder. The other arm is extended along the side, and the back is straight, with the head in line with the spine. The exercise should be done on both sides.

Modification one: The knees are bent, with the weight supported on the lower legs as well as the arm.

Modification two: Arm is in the same position, but the exercise is done against a wall. Back is straight.

Modification three (advanced): Increase the intensity by moving the elbow forward or holding a dumbbell with the top hand, or both.

■ **Bird dog:** Targets back muscles from the shoulder to the buttocks. Starting on all fours, with elbows directly underneath shoulders and knees

directly below hips, raise one arm in front and the opposite leg in back at the same time, keeping both straight, and the head in line with the spine. Raise and lower leg and arm several times, then switch arm and leg.

Modification one: Do arm and leg raises separately.

Modification two: Do the exercise while leaning against a wall.

Modification three (advanced): Do the exercise

with dumbbells or ankle weights, or both.

■ **Cat-camel:** Targets flexing and extension of abdominal and back muscles. Begin on all fours, with elbows under shoulders and knees below hips. Arch the back into a convex shape, then reverse it into a concave position. Repeat.

Modification: Do the exercise while standing and leaning against a wall, or seated, leaning against a desk.

Hamstring injury, marathon recovery

By HOWARD SCHNEIDER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

At first she thought she was feeling routine soreness, something that Donna Grubb-Hewlett was pretty sure she could muscle through. But when she heard a pop in the back of her leg during a February morning warm-up, she knew she had a more serious problem.

"(The soreness) was something I thought I should expect," said Grubb-Hewlett, a Mitre Corp. program manager who is training for her first marathon this summer in San Diego. "But this didn't go away." Things creep up on us in our 40s, and Grubb-Hewlett's steady exercise regimen hadn't prevented her hamstring from giving way.

Hamstring injuries are among the most common to strike casual athletes and gym regulars — whether it's the sudden tweak that pulls you up short in a softball game or a more profound "Level 3" tear that shreds fiber deep within the muscle and requires months of rehabilitation. In the most serious cases, the muscle and tendon can snap away from the bone and must be surgically reattached.

Hamstrings are complicated muscles — actually, they're sets of three that begin at the hip and extend down the back of the leg to just below the knee — responsible for a lot of the body's motion. They flex the knees and pull the hips forward when you are walking and jogging; in faster running, they actually help slow the legs down before pulling the feet back to the ground.

That involvement in the sprints common to many sports seems to factor in many hamstring injuries, said John McCarthy, an assistant professor with the University of Alabama-Birmingham's Department of Physical Therapy. Such motions force the hamstrings to contract even as they lengthen with forward momentum, establishing an internal tug of war.

"That is where you get the peak stretch," McCarthy said. Weakness of the muscle al-

most certainly is a cause of injury, and some doctors and researchers feel that strength imbalances may also be to blame. In many people, the quadriceps, at the front of the leg, are substantially stronger than the hamstrings, perhaps setting up the back of the leg for injury. Postural problems can also add strain.

Fortunately, a pulled hamstring is not likely to be a career-ender. Many Level 1 tears can be treated at home with ice, a compression bandage, elevation (to keep the swelling down after the injury) and a few days of rest from activity until the pain subsides. After that, a gradual return to stretching and exercise will ensure that the muscle heals properly.

Though Grubb-Hewlett's was considered a Level 1 tear, she is working with a local chiropractor, Kathy Coutinho, in hopes of recovering more quickly and completing her marathon program with the Washington area Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training group. After two weeks that involved therapy with Coutinho but little or no activity, she moved on to 40 minutes of lower-impact work on the stationary bike and elliptical trainer. A month later she began running again, and now is adding to her distance — she is back up to about five miles — using intervals that began with two minutes of walking for every one of running.

Her chief recommendation: Swallow your pride and get help early. Tina Sparling, a coach with the Team in Training program, agrees: Just trying to soldier on can make the problem worse, she said.

The deeper a hamstring injury, the lengthier the recommended rehabilitation. Even those inclined to treat mild tears themselves should be cautious because the incidence of hamstring re-injury is high, doctors and therapists say.

Though pain will limit what can be done at first, McCarthy said that side-to-side exercises such as the "grapevine" — a se-

ries of crossover steps popular in aerobics classes — can be done slowly to start the recovery. He also focuses on improving agility and the strength of the trunk, back and other core muscles that can help protect the hamstring.

Gradually, hamstring stretches and strengthening exercises can be reintroduced: The National Strength and Conditioning Association has prepared a guide to some of them (www.nscs-lift.org/Perform/articles/060305.pdf).

Swimming is also a good option because it allows the muscle to move without supporting the full weight of the body.

For those eager to avoid injury, Frank Holmes, director of the sports medicine program at Georgetown University Hospital, recommends a good warm-up.

"Let the muscle fire at a lower level and get into a rhythm," he said. "You avoid that shock value."

Cross-training can help avoid overuse: If you're a runner, bike or swim as well. If you're in a sports league, get other exercise that conditions you for the activity. Weight training can help ensure that the hamstrings are up to what you have in store for them.

To target the hamstrings, Holmes recommends leg curls, which can be done at home by securing a resistance band tied to a door or piece of furniture, looping it around the ankle, then flexing the knee. (Use a chair or wall for balance.) If you are using a leg-curl machine, he recommends isolating one leg at a time and slowing the "eccentric" phase of the exercise — when the weight is being released — since hamstrings seem to get injured most often as they are being extended.

For those without access to a gym, bodyweight squats (with knees at shoulder width and weight over your heels, lower yourself until your thighs are parallel to the ground, then come back up) and lunges (step out with one foot, lower the back knee close to the ground, then come up, keeping the front knee over the ankle) will also help.



LA TIMES

Michael Bracko shows, from top to bottom, the front plank, side plank and bird dog exercises. Illustrates FITNESS-BACK (category I) by Jeannine Stein (c) 2008, Los Angeles Times. Moved Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

Life & Style

NMC celebrates 27th Charter Day

Dela Cruz wins Marianas Idol IV

By **CLARISSA DAVID**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A 17-year-old Kagman High School Junior student outshined four other contestants of Marianas Idol IV during the Northern Marianas College's 27th Charter Day celebration April 11 at the school's As Terlaje Campus.

Tanya Dela Cruz's rendition of Destiny's Child's "Stand Up For Love" won her the Marianas Idol IV title, \$300 in cash, and a brand new Motorola Ra-

zor cellphone with SIM card.

Judges for this year's Marianas Idol were Vince Dela Cruz of NMC Office of Student Activities and Leadership, 2006 Marianas Idol winner Juanette Villagomez, and Jennifer Aguon of Stellar Marianas.

Dela Cruz said that it's her second time to join the competition and she didn't expect to win. "It feels good [to win]. I'm happy. I thank my friends and my parents for supporting me."

Thirteen individuals auditioned for the competition and were trimmed down to five finalists, which included Amada Rabauliman, Perry Yalolmar, Janee Babauta, and Felix Rabauliman.

"The Marianas Idol is always the

Marianas Idol competition finalist Amanda Rabauliman, 17, performs the song "Respect" by Aretha Franklin.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

biggest attraction [during Charter Day celebration]," said 2008 Charter Day Committee Secretary Queanna Sablan.

The NMC community celebrates Charter Day annually in commemoration of the 1981 signing of an executive order which established the Northern Marianas College as a division within the CNMI Department of Education.

Traditionally, the celebration has been mostly a two-day event. "Because of the economy, we have to cut back, we have to downscale it as well. But we always try to make the best of what we can," explained Sablan.

This year's theme, "Working Together for a Brighter Future," is manifested in the stage design and backdrop, which showed an illustration of individuals standing together in the shape of a latte stone. "We tried to incorporate the culture along the theme and the NMC colors," Sablan added.

The celebration featured live performances from Maggie Naputi, Maika'I, Burning Bush, Saipan Grand Hotel's Zynergy Band, Inatuas, English Department Dance Club, Burning Bush, I Metgot, Penina Ole Vasa, and the Saipan Southern High Manta Ray Concert Band which recently brought home gold after competing successfully in Guam.

The heavy downpour in the evening did not dampen the festive mood of the community members who joined the night's revelry.

For Leina'Ala Olopai, it was her first time to attend a Charter Day celebration and found it interesting. "They [the featured performers] were good. I like reggae so I like the Burning Bush band."

Lynette Cabrera, a junior stu-



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas Idol competition winner Tanya Dela Cruz 17, receives her award from NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, PTI marketing executive Carlene Reyes-Tenorio, and NMC officials. Northern Marianas College celebrated its 27th Charter Day last Friday at the NMC Field on As Terlaje Campus.



Marianas Idol competition finalist Perry Yalolmar 22, entertains the crowd with "Gadi Bom".

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Marianas Idol competition finalist Felix Rabauliman 19, wow the crowd with his rendition of "Sexual Healing."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the award winning Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band entertain the crowd during the Charter Day festivities.

dent at Marianas High School, said that the previous celebrations had more life to it. "There was more entertainment before... but it's still good now, a lot of people still showed up."

NMC president Carmen Fernandez said that although this year's celebration is rather "conservative," she is pleased with this year's turnout nonetheless and only hopes the best for the NMC community. "We wish to be here forever for all

the people of CNMI, 'til the end of time."

Since its inception, NMC has focused on meeting the higher education and vocational training needs of the CNMI.

Marianas Idol competition finalist Janee Babauta, 14, hits high notes as she performs the song "There You'll Be".

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Hundreds of students and community members gather inside the tent as they take shelter from the sudden downpour during Friday night's Northern Marianas College's Charter Day celebration at the NMC Field on As Terlaje Campus.

Luminaries attend Heston's funeral

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlton Heston, one of the last lions of Old Hollywood, was remembered at his funeral Saturday as devoutly religious and patriotic—a man who was an imposing figure both in his politics and on the big screen.

Heston died April 5 at age 84 in his Beverly Hills home with his wife, Lydia, at his side following a battle with Alzheimer's disease. The service was held at the Episcopal Parish of St. Matthews, a church in a wooded canyon above Pacific Palisades.

"Charlton sat every Sunday morning right there," said Rev. Michael Scott Seiler, pointing to a front pew in the modernist wooden church shaped with seats arranged in a half moon.

About 300 people attended the funeral, including family members, politicians and actors.

A frail Nancy Reagan entered the church on the arm of Tom Selleck. Following the nearly two-hour ceremony, Reagan left with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Other notables from Heston's Hollywood history included Olivia DeHavilland, Keith Carradine, Pat Boone, Oliver Stone and Rob Reiner.

The first part of the ceremony was devoted to memories of Heston. His daughter, Holly Heston Rochell, recalled her father's love of poetry and recited the words of Shakespeare and Tennyson. Her brother, Fraser Clarke Heston, reminisced about his father's



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, center, and actor Tom Selleck, right, walk former first lady Nancy Reagan to her car following a memorial service for Charlton Heston in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

prowess on his tennis court, where he played every Sunday with friends.

He talked about his father's devotion to America and said he "loved his country."

"I never knew a finer man; I will never know a finer man," he said.

His father was cremated, and the family had a small ceremony before the funeral, he said.

Heston was one of the biggest box-office draws of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, often playing

legendary leaders or ordinary men thrown into heroic struggles. Some of his notable roles included Marc Antony in "Julius Caesar" and "Antony and Cleopatra"; Michelangelo in "The Agony and the Ecstasy"; John the Baptist in "The Greatest Story Ever Told"; and an astronaut on a topsy-turvy world where simians rule in "Planet of the Apes."

In recent years, Heston became better known for his conservative politics and position

on gun rights as head of the National Rifle Association. Heston also campaigned for Republican presidential and congressional candidates and against affirmative action.

Near the end of his five-year tenure as NRA president in 2002, Heston disclosed he had symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease. Heston told his fellow NRA members when he stepped down that his time in office was "quite a ride. ... I loved every minute of it."

Heston was born Charles Carter in a Chicago suburb on Oct. 4, 1923. He grew up in the Michigan wilderness and after serving in the Army during World War II began acting.

After acting in two independent films by a college classmate, Heston was put under contract by producer Hal B. Wallis ("Casablanca"). He was later cast as the circus manager in "The Greatest Show on Earth" and then as Moses in "The

Ten Commandments."

Heston followed with several other films before "Ben-Hur" elevated him to the top of Hollywood's A-list.

Michael Levine, who was Heston's publicist for 20 years and attended the service, said he was struck by how many people attended from both sides of the political aisle. He attributed this to Heston's "virtue and character."

"It was a beautiful service," he said.

Actors, lawmakers mark Darfur date

LONDON (AP)—Lawmakers, actors and writers marked the fifth anniversary of the conflict in Darfur on Saturday with an impassioned plea for more support for Sudanese children displaced by the conflict.

Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling and fellow authors of children's books have signed an open letter calling for more support for children affected

will join a rally in central London on Sunday. Protesters plan to gather outside the Sudanese Embassy.

A delegation of young survivors of the conflict will also hand in a series of drawings by Sudanese children, which depict the conflict, to employees at Prime Minister Gordon Brown's official residence.

Actors Matt Damon and Thandie Newton were also among those supporting the campaign worldwide, in a television advertisement campaign.

"After the genocide in Rwanda we all shook our heads and said 'never again,'" Damon said in a statement. "Today, as killings mount in Darfur we need to make 'never again' a reality and demand protection for the most vulnerable."

More than 200,000 people have been killed in the Darfur conflict, and over 2 million are displaced from their homes, the U.N. has said.

Fighting has raged in Darfur since 2003, when ethnic African tribesman took up arms, complaining of decades of neglect and discrimination by the Sudanese Arab-dominated government. Khartoum has been accused of unleashing janjaweed militia forces to commit atrocities against ethnic African communities in the fight with rebel groups.

Protests will take place in around 30 countries on Sunday, humanitarian charity Crisis Action said, calling for an immediate deployment of more peacekeeping troops.



In this photo provided by Amnesty International, monks from the International Burmese Monks Organization wave a Buddhist flag as they take part in a "Get on the Bus for Human Rights" event held in the Manhattan borough of New York Friday, April 11, 2008.

by the bloodshed.

"It is time to change the narrative," the letter reads. "It is time to tell a different story. This April many children in Darfur will be reaching their fifth birthdays without ever having known peace. The world needs to wake up."

British lawmakers including Nick Clegg, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats,

Large and small screen actors cut ties

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Unions representing film and television actors will negotiate separately with producers in upcoming contract talks after board members of the TV actors union voted Saturday to sever a long-standing agreement between the two guilds.

The vote by the board of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists came hours before a meeting with the Screen Actors Guild and just three months before the expiration of the contract covering movies and prime-time shows.

Despite a sometimes rocky 27-year relationship the unions had shown recent signs of peace as they prepared for the upcoming talks.

The two groups had hoped at Saturday's meeting to set a start date for negotiations. Instead of discussing strategies the sides swapped accusations.

"For the past year SAG leadership in Hollywood has engaged in a relentless campaign of disinformation and disparagement," AFTRA president Roberta Reardon said in a written statement.

SAG President Alan Rosen-

berg's written response: "AFTRA's refusal now to bargain together with us and their last-second abandonment of the joint process is calculated, cynical and may serve the interests of their institution, but not its members."

The AFTRA board said the vote to terminate the agreement, known as "Phase One," was "overwhelming."

Wary of repeating the damage wrought by the recently ended 100-day Hollywood writers strike, producers and several A-list actors including Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Meryl Streep and Robert De Niro had been pressing for negotiations to start as early as this week.

The 120,000-member Screen Actors Guild represents actors in movies, TV and other media. The 70,000-member TV and radio federation represents, among others, actors, singers, announcers and journalists.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, said in a statement that it looks forward to bargaining with AFTRA. It did not mention SAG.

Colbert to broadcast from Philadelphia

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert's bid for the presidency may have fallen short, but he's still determined to influence the race.

On Monday, "The Colbert Report" will begin a week of broadcasts in Philadelphia, where the all-important Democratic Pennsylvania primary is looming. Colbert hopes the relocation will return him to center stage in the election.

"I don't need to be president. I don't need to be president," repeated the comedian in a recent interview, as if trying to convince himself. "If somebody else needs that, if Hillary Clinton or John McCain or Barack Obama need that title to make themselves feel good, that's fine."

"I just want the power to decide who will be president and I'm going to Philly to help exercise that."

It's the first time the Comedy Central show (11:30 p.m. EST, Monday-Thursday) has broadcast anywhere but its snug Manhattan studio. Taping at the University of Pennsylvania's 900-seat Zellerbach Theater will be a drastic change for the program.

"It's like doing the show all over again," said Colbert. "It's like October

2005 because it's a new set, new graphics, coming up with a new opening every night, trying to give everything special touches."

Among those touches will be a filmed tour of Philadelphia and hometown guests including John Legend (who will sing the "Star Spangled Banner"), Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Governor Ed Rendell and rap group the Roots.

This is Colbert's most notable foray into the thick of presidential politics since his failed bid to be added to the South Carolina Democratic primary ballot last fall. Though at the time Colbert was polling ahead of several candidates, party officials voted 13-3 to keep him off the ballot, claiming he "serves to detract from the serious candidates."

Advertisements for the upcoming shows have come with typical Colbert bravado. In one, he announces: "Philadelphia, you're about to get a new brother to love. No tongue."

"The Colbert Report" recently won a Peabody for broadcasting excellence. To Colbert, the award is further proof of his sway.

"I'm a king maker," he said. "It's not a dirty word."



Stephen Colbert poses for photographers during the Comedy Central party, in this Sept. 16, 2007 file photo, in Los Angeles.

Britney Spears in minor traffic mishap

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears was involved in a minor traffic accident on a Los Angeles freeway Saturday, authorities said.

California Highway Patrol Officer Patrick Kimball says the two-car collision occurred about 8:20 p.m. Saturday on the northbound 405 at the 101 freeway.

Kimball says it was a minor accident and nobody was hurt.

Kimball says it's unclear whether Spears was driving or which car she was in.

The CHP took a report and no one was cited.

An after-hours e-mail sent to Spears' publicist was not returned Saturday.



AP
Pop singer Britney Spears poses on the press line at the Scandinavian Style Mansion party in Los Angeles in this Dec. 1, 2007 file photo.

Dr. Phil' staff bails out jailed teen

BARTOW, Fla. (AP)—Employees of the "Dr. Phil" television show posted bail for a central Florida teenager jailed for taking part in a videotaped beating of another teen, a spokeswoman for the show's host confirmed Saturday.

Staff members of the talk show helped Mercedes Nichols—one of eight teens facing charges in the case—post bond this weekend, "Dr. Phil" McGraw's spokeswoman Terri Corigliano said in an e-mail.

"We have helped guests

guests for a program about the case, Corigliano wrote.

Only two of the teens remained jailed late Saturday night, Polk County Sheriff's Office spokesman Scott Wilder said.

The teens, whose ages range from 14 to 18, face kidnapping and misdemeanor battery charges. Three also face a felony charge of witness tampering. The state attorney's office says all will be tried as adults.

They are accused of participating in a violent beating of another teenager, which was



AP
Brittini Hardcastle, 17, at her first appearance in the Central County Jail in Bartow, Fla., Friday April 11, 2008.

and potential guests in the past when they need financial assistance to come on the show—assisting with clothing allowance, lost wages, accommodations, travel and necessities," Corigliano wrote. "In this case, certain staff members went beyond our guidelines (re the bail being paid).

"These staff members have been spoken to and our policies reiterated. In addition, we have decided not to go forward with the story as our guidelines have been compromised."

The show's producers were in the process of booking

videotaped and has now been viewed widely on national television and the Internet.

A judge on Friday set bails ranging from \$30,000 to \$37,000 for the teenagers.

McGraw drew criticism earlier this year when he confronted troubled pop star Britney Spears at the UCLA Medical Center during a stay at the facility.

At one point, McGraw had planned an episode of the "Dr. Phil" show about Spears, but quickly abandoned the idea. He has since apologized for discussing his visit publicly—but not for visiting her.

Ivana Trump weds at ex-husband's estate

MIAMI (AP)—Ivana Trump is hitched—again.

The ex-wife of real estate mogul Donald Trump wore a pastel pink-and-gold wedding dress when she tied the knot Saturday evening with Italian entrepreneur Rossano Rubicondi, the Palm Beach Post reported.

The wedding took place at Mar-a-Lago, Donald Trump's opulent seaside mansion in Palm Beach. The estate also hosted the billionaire's wedding to Slovenian model Melania Knauss in 2005.

Donald Trump, whom she divorced in 1990, attended, as did their children.

Also among the almost 600 guests expected were hotel heirs Rick and Kathy Hilton, the parents of Paris; and

singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka.

Trump, 59, and Rubicondi, 36, have been together for about six years, her spokeswoman Catherine Saxton said. They got engaged in September, and this is her fourth marriage.



AP
Ivana Trump and her boyfriend Rossano Rubicondi arrive at a dinner party following the Baby Phat runway show at Fashion Week in New York City, in a Friday, Sept. 7, 2007 file photo.

Concerned stepmom can help bolster shy girl's self-esteem

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old stepdaughter, "Nicki," is sweet, sensitive, shy and artistic. Through no fault of her own she is two grades behind in school. She's not anti-social but has few friends at school because of the age difference. The friends she does have take advantage of her. They spend time with her only when she has spending money. They also borrow her things and do not return the items in good condition.

Nicki loves to talk about how many friends she has, but she'll also mention that they don't like her sometimes. She lives with her mother for the most part, but when she visits she seems starved for attention. I try to tell her to stand up for herself, but she thinks if she does she'll lose her "friends." Her mother also has low self-esteem, and I think she has passed this on to Nicki.

Is there anything I can do to bolster my step-daughter's self-esteem? And what can I say about her friends without overstepping my boundaries?

LOST STEPMOM IN PALAU

DEAR LOST STEPMOM: It is not unheard of for parents who are socially recessive to pass that trait on to their children. After all, children learn by example -- and that's where you may be able to help your stepdaughter. The more time Nicki spends with you, the more she will see how you appropriately handle social situations and contemporaries. You should also share your thought process with her before and/or after you have done so. This will give her coping mechanisms in dealing with her own life.

Although it may be tempting, do not put down her classmates. If you do, it could come across as a criticism of her. Instead, encourage your stepdaughter to get involved in activities outside of school -- perhaps pursue her art, something that she enjoys. That way she can meet peers with whom she has something in common, and who won't have preconceived ideas about her status.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a neighbor who honks her horn twice to say goodbye to her children -- at 7 a.m.! It's so annoying to wake up to the sound of a honking horn every morning.

How do I ask this neighbor—whom I am not friendly with—to stop this daily ritual?

NO MORE HONKING IN PA.

DEAR NO MORE HONKING: Write your neighbor a sweet note and explain that the honking is waking you up. She may be unaware that she is creating a problem. If that doesn't work, then check the noise ordinance in your city. She may be in violation of the law.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I never married "Mark," the father of my 20-year-old son, "Joel," and Mark didn't appear in Joel's life until he was 12. Mark had a relationship with Joel for about two years, then moved to another state.

I learned last night that Mark has died. Joel is a few hours away at college. Should I tell him on the phone or in person?

UNDECIDED IN STOCKBRIDGE, GA.

DEAR UNDECIDED: If the situation were reversed, what would you prefer? While Mark and Joel have not been close, your son has still lost his father. To tell him in person would be the kind thing to do.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Matchbox Twenty cancels rodeo concert

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Matchbox Twenty has canceled a performance at a large rodeo event out of concern for the animals.

Lead singer Rob Thomas confirmed that the band is pull-

ing out of its July 18 show at Cheyenne Frontier Days, which bills itself as the world's biggest outdoor rodeo.

"We ask that (fans) please understand that it would be impos-

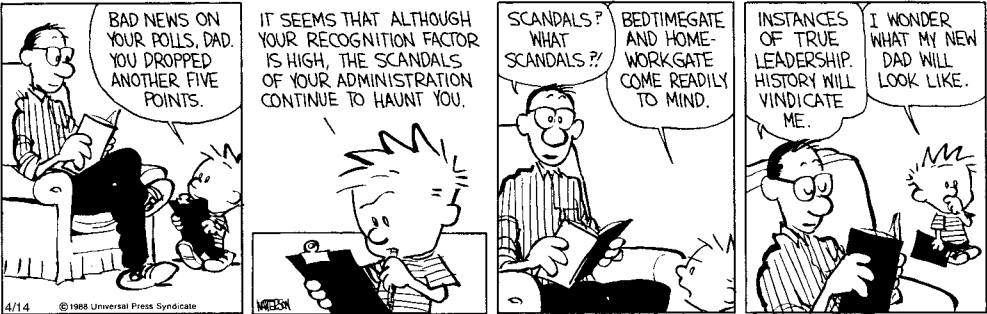
sible for us to put ourselves in the position of making money from what we believe to be the mistreatment of animals," according to a statement from Thomas posted Saturday on the

band's Web site.

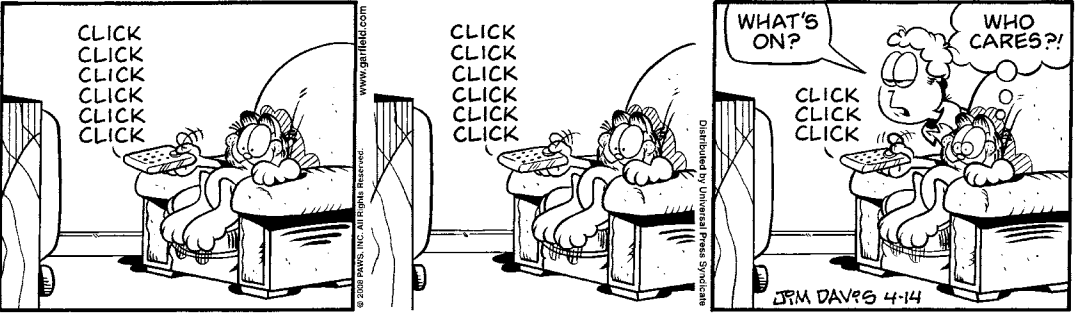
The Grammy-winning band is still scheduled to perform this summer at the North Dakota State Fair, which includes rodeo events.

Pastimes

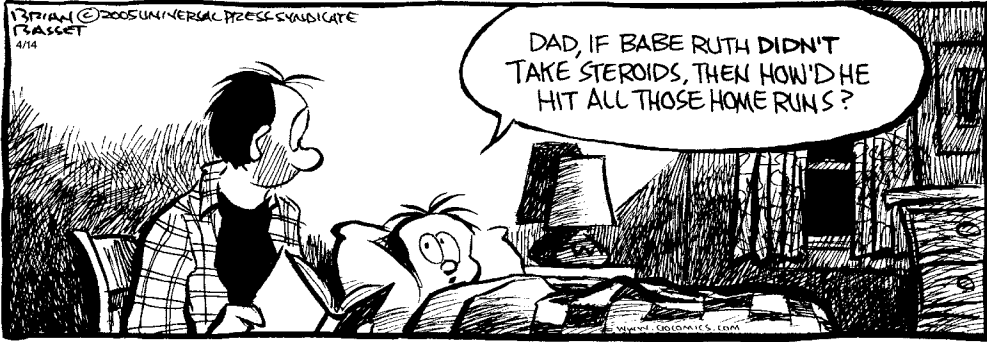
Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Talking doll's word

5 Curved line

8 Fleet member

12 Passion, for one

14 Eastern bigwig

15 Large brass container?

16 Start over

17 Venusian vessel

18 Small bus

20 Not odds

23 Shove

24 Hardy cabbage

25 Bleacher-ite's flag

28 Type squares

29 Vote for

30 A billion years

32 Hanging ornament

34 Poi root

35 Dinner for Dobbin

36 Luke-warm

37 Dismal assent

40 Sailor's

41 Cooking fat

42 Tool often carried in one's pocket

47 Ellipse

48 Lacking experience

49 Hay bundle

50 Get a glimpse of

51 Toy on a string

DOWN

1 Swab

2 Exist

3 Fellow

4 Create harmony

5 Jason's ship

6 Brazilian resort

7 United city

8 "Big" weapon of WWI

9 Portent

10 Staffer

11 Helen of —

13 Lum-moxes

19 — It Romantic?

20 — out a living

21 Improvise

22 Other-wise

23 Hammer-head

25 Duck-billed critter

26 Tide type

27 Actress Spelling

29 Cheese choice

31 Affirmative action?

33 Head, slangily

34 Wee

36 Young 'un

37 Amor-phous mass

38 Stromboli spillage

39 By word of mouth

40 Initial chip

43 Away from WSW

44 Judge Lance

45 Tina of "30 Rock"

46 Tokyo's old name

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Michelle Gellar, 31; Robert Carlyle, 47; Brad Garrett, 48; Julie Christie, 67

Happy Birthday: As long as you don't get caught up trying to keep up with everyone around you, you'll be fine. Be smart, think things through and don't compare where you are or who you are to others. Focus on reaching your goals. Think forward, not backward, and you will see the future quite clearly. Your numbers are 1, 15, 23, 26, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You are in a high cycle and can build momentum, popularity and future prospects. Children will respond well to you, so set your rules and stick to them. Progress will be yours. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let emotions lead you in the wrong direction. You can have the best of both worlds if you are precise and choose your options appropriately. Don't go over someone's head if you don't like something. Use proper channels. Power is within reach. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The more comfortable and fun you make your surroundings, the more you will attract fun-loving individuals to share your space. Love is in the picture so block out time for someone you think is special. Use your vision and take action. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A trip may not pan out as planned. An older experienced individual can help you acquire what you want or hold on to what you've got. You will have trouble with someone looking for a handout. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let emotional matters get to you; instead, clear misconceptions promptly. You have lots to gain if you are efficient. When romance comes into the picture, you can win someone's heart and make a commitment. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your seriousness will work in your favor with personal issues or matters concerning your home. However, lighten up regarding money matters and entertainment. Someone from your past can help you rediscover something you used to enjoy. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let laziness stand in the way of doing things that could lead to interesting events or meeting someone you may partner with personally or professionally. A serious look at how you can reform something that is not working well will help you build confidence and put you in an authoritative position. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go about your own business and don't be fooled by anyone who professes to know everything. Trust your own judgment and make decisions based on what you know is fact. A quick trip will prove you are right. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen and observe. Now is not the time to come across as a know-it-all. Complaints are likely if you are too brazen or erratic in your actions and decisions. Love is on the rise. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't give in to pressure, especially the kind that might cost you financially. You can

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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wrapple your way into a key position if you refuse to donate or let someone else handle your cash. A trip will bring you knowledge. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen to an ultimatum someone is giving you. It won't pay to have to backtrack because you thought you were in control. A partnership can be good as long as you are fair and keep things equal. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Throw yourself into your work. Do things with your peers, colleagues or fellow students. Find out all you need to know to succeed. Listen and observe but don't complain or get angry. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and bright and tend to take on too much. Ability and determination will lead you to victory. You are aggressive, reactionary and a spectacular addition to any group.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★

4/14

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WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

70's DJs

Solution: 8 letters

COLLECTIONORTER
OFEVERBEMULOVEE
MMVTTRACKSSENF
PRIELTSUHNNULO
IELCYCSERTANUOR
LSHIRTSTULTKBAOD
AEIGOOBQRGSOIRS
TGENREPELVNDRTP
ISEEDOTHUYUIHFE
OYBILNHTOTNGSAA
NNSOEYIOSNIIILSK
SCINORTCELEBVHE
HSBEATSVLUPAIR
OPMETTHIAMDNUS
WCIMANYDRASLANG

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/13

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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kitchen, livingroom & carport. Call 322-2488

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1 CARPENTER (SM 0059)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Penta Pacific LLC. @288-2272.

**1 CONSTRUCTION
SUPERVISOR (SM 0060)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Penta Pacific LLC. @288-2272.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0061)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Penta Pacific LLC. @288-2272.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0062)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medi-
cal & worker's compensation. Contact:
Micronesia Woodcraft Ent.,
Inc. @ 235-7631.

**1 SALES MARKETING
MANAGER (SM 0063)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical &
worker's compensation. Contact: Pa-
cific Sunshine Tour Inc. @234-7220.

**1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(SM 0064)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medi-
cal & worker's compensation. Contact:
Sunflower Marketing Corp.
@233-1041.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0065)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Mingli Corporation @234-2150.

**1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(SM 0066)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Mingli Corporation @234-2150.

**1 SALES SUPERVISOR
(SM 0067)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Mingli Corporation @234-2150.

**1 GENERAL MAINTENANCE
(SM 0068)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medi-
cal & worker's compensation. Contact:
Magdalena R. Orbino
@234-5348.

1 HOUSEKEEPING (SM 0069)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: hous-
ing with \$60.00 deduction, medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Camacho Investment Corp. dba Sum-
mer Holiday Hotel @234-3182.

**1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE
REPAIRER (SM 0070)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: hous-
ing with \$60.00 deduction, medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
Camacho Investment Corp. dba Sum-
mer Holiday Hotel @234-3182.

WHATZIT Solution:
Piling on the agony

**1 GENERAL MAINTENANCE
(SM 0071)**
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medi-
cal & worker's compensation. Contact:
LNC Corporation dba LNC
Store @233-2899.

1 MASON (SM 0072)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
JOS Corporation @235-5496.

**1 WAITER/WAITRESS
(SM 0073)**
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Immelman steady as Woods makes his move



Brandt Snedeker, left and Trevor Immelman, right of South Africa walk to the 17th green during the third round of the 2008 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., Saturday, April 12, 2008.



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Trevor Immelman stood frozen in the fairway when the ball kept going, spinning off the 15th green and onto the ramp of tightly mowed grass, tumbling toward the water.

One more turn and it would plop into the pond, leading to double bogey or worse Saturday at the Masters.

"I was begging for it to stop as soon as it could," he said.

Somehow, it did.

Immelman escaped with par and finished with a birdie for a 3-under 69, giving him a two-shot lead over Brandt Snedeker going into a final round sure to be filled with heart-pounding moments.

"I have no clue how the ball

stayed up there," Immelman said. "But obviously, I'm thankful."

It was reminiscent of Fred Couples' big break in 1992, when a blade of grass kept his tee shot from rolling into Rae's Creek in the final round, allowing him to save par on his way to a one-shot victory.

"There's a massive difference," Immelman said. "This is the 15th hole of the third round, and his was the 12th hole of the final round. I was extremely fortunate that my ball stayed up there. But there's still a long way to go in this tournament."

And Tiger Woods is still in the picture, just barely.

In the easiest conditions at Augusta in three years, Woods had to settle for a bogey-free round of 68 that was probably the worst he could have done.

He has never won a major when trailing going into the final round, and he has never won a PGA Tour event when trailing by more than five shots after 54 holes.

"If I had made a few more putts, I'd be right there," Woods said. "But I'm right there anyway."

That depends on the four guys in front of him, none of whom has ever won a major.

It starts with Immelman, who was at 11-under 205 on a damp, cloudy afternoon that included a 40-minute delay because of rain.

Snedeker steadied himself after three straight bogeys around Amen Corner, getting those shots back over the final five holes, including a 10-foot birdie on the 18th for a 2-under 70 that put him in the final group.

Steve Flesch was the best

Lefty in his pairing with Phil Mickelson, also finishing with a birdie for a 69 to reach 8-under 208. Paul Casey, among four players who had a share of the lead, shot a 69 and was another shot back.

Casey has the most experience on this kind of stage, having played on two Ryder Cup teams. He atoned for a sloppy bogey on the 15th with an 8-iron to 6 feet for birdie on the 16th, one of only four in the third round.

Flesch wasn't even expecting to be at the Masters, qualifying late in the year by winning two PGA Tour events against weak fields to finish among the top 30 on the money list. Now, he is only three shots back with 18 holes to play.

Standing on the 18th green

before making his 4-foot birdie putt, Flesch gazed at the large leaderboard.

"I was curious like everyone else—what did Tiger shoot today?" he said.

It was the first time in a dozen rounds at the Masters that Woods broke 70, but he had reason to expect much more. The third round began under a light drizzle and was stopped for 40 minutes when storms rolled through eastern Georgia. That made the course soft and long, the greens receptive. With no wind, it was ripe for a charge.

But all Woods could muster was one birdie putt outside 10 feet. Two other birdies came on par 5s when he was putting for eagle, another with a wedge inside a foot on the 17th. Woods missed four straight putts inside 15 feet on the front nine that could have turned his fortunes, and an 8-foot birdie on the par-5 15th.

"This is the highest score I could have shot today," Woods said. "I hit the ball so well and I hit so many good putts that just skirted the hole. But hey, I put myself right back in the tournament."

Six shots is a lot to make up in the final round at the Masters, considering no one has done that since Nick Faldo beat Greg Norman in 1996. Woods' best hope might come from the weather, and from the inexperience atop the leaderboard.

"All I can ask for myself is to go out there and play as hard as I can, and believe in myself," Immelman said.

"There are so many great players out there. If I rest on a two-shot lead, I'm not going to do very well. I've just got to have positive thoughts and give it my best shot."

Gary Player is the only South African to win the Masters, the last of his three victories coming 30 years ago.

Immelman's lone mistake came on the par-3 fourth, but he was solid the rest of the af-

ternoon and surged ahead with two spectacular shots and one incredible break.

He hit a low pitch across Rae's Creek that hopped once and skidded to a stop 2 feet behind the cup for birdie on the par-3 13th for the outright lead. Then he went two shots ahead with an 8-foot birdie on the 14th.

It all looked as though it might wash away on the par-5 15th. Immelman hit a sand wedge for his third shot that came in low and spun back quickly, all the way off the green and down the hill.

"I knew there was a chance it was going to go in the water," Immelman said. "I must say, I couldn't quite believe it when it stayed up."

Snedeker, playing his first Masters as a pro, nearly let his big chance get away with an errant tee shot on the 11th, a tee shot that sailed over the 12th green and an approach into Rae's Creek that led to bogey on the 13th.

But he followed with consecutive bogeys inside 10 feet, and another one on the 18th to get into the final group.

"I'm going out there to play good golf and see what I've got," Snedeker said. "This is the ultimate test for us."

It could be a test in other ways. Behind the clouds was a front expected to send temperatures into the low 60s and bring 20 mph winds, the scariest conditions on a course where even a breeze can play tricks.

That might be what Woods needs to keep alive his fading hopes of a calendar Grand Slam.

"I'm sure he's going to be a factor," Snedeker said. "His name is going to be on the leaderboard somewhere tomorrow. It's going to be there on the back nine. You have to realize that Trevor and all of us in front of him, if we go out there and play a good round of golf, he's going to have to play an extremely great round of golf to beat us."

Celtics win to keep Hawks waiting to end playoff drought



ATLANTA (AP)—The Boston Celtics' backups outplayed the Atlanta Hawks starters in the fourth quarter to claim a 99-89 win Saturday and keep the Hawks waiting to secure a playoff spot.

Atlanta would have ended its nine-year playoff drought—the NBA's longest—with a victory. It remains two games ahead of Indiana with two to play in the race for the last Eastern Conference playoff berth.

Bobcats 107, Pacers 103

In Indianapolis, Charlotte won to deal a severe blow to Indiana's playoff hopes.

Jason Richardson scored 26

points to lead the Bobcats.

The Pacers must now win their final two games and rely on Atlanta losing its two if it is to make the playoffs.

Jazz 124, Nuggets 97

In Salt Lake City, Utah beat Denver to strengthen its hopes of home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Mehmet Okur had 20 points and 15 rebounds while Deron Williams added 19 points and 11 assists for the Jazz.

Denver remained tied with Golden State for the eighth and last Western Conference playoff spot.

Warriors 122, Clippers 116

In Oakland, California, Golden

State beat Los Angeles to keep its waning playoff hopes alive.

Baron Davis had 25 points and nine assists for the Warriors, while Stephen Jackson added 28 points.

The Warriors are tied with Denver for eighth in the Western Conference standings, but the Nuggets have the tiebreaker edge because they have the superior head-to-head record this season.

The Clippers lost their fifth straight game, and are closing out their worst season in eight years.

Kings 94, Hornets 91

In Sacramento, California, the home side dealt a big blow to New Orleans' hopes for the top seed in the Western Conference.

Ron Artest returned from a

thumb injury to hit four clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to clinch the game for Sacramento.

The loss dropped the Hornets into a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the top spot in the West with only two games remaining. The Lakers control the tiebreaker with New Orleans based on a better conference record.

By losing back-to-back games, the Hornets are also in trouble in the Southwest Division. They lead San Antonio and Houston by only a half-game, meaning they could go from fighting for home-court throughout the playoffs to opening on the road when the postseason begins next weekend.

Wizards 109, 76ers 93

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas

scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to lead Washington over Philadelphia.

The Wizards outscored the 76ers 31-9 in the final quarter.

The victory means the Wizards can finish no worse than sixth in the Eastern Conference, and can't be caught by the 76ers. Washington leads Philadelphia by two games with two to play and owns the tiebreaker due to a better conference record.

Trail Blazers 108, Mavericks 105

In Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 23 points as Portland held off a late challenge to beat Dallas.

The Mavericks had won their last three and look set to finish sev-

enth in the Western Conference.

Nets 111, Bucks 98

In Milwaukee, Richard Jefferson top scored with 24 points as New Jersey spoiled newly-appointed Milwaukee general manager John Hammond's first game watching his team play.

Vince Carter added 21 for New Jersey.

Milwaukee has lost six straight.

Timberwolves 114, Grizzlies 105

In Memphis, Tennessee, Kirk Snyder had 22 points and 11 rebounds as Minnesota downed Memphis.

Al Jefferson added 21 points and 10 boards for the Timberwolves.

Brewers ruin Santana's home debut, beat Mets



NEW YORK (AP)—Milwaukee's Ben Sheets ruined Johan Santana's home debut, outpitching New York's new ace in the Brewers' 5-3 win over the Mets in the National League on Saturday.

Three homers helped Milwaukee come from behind and Sheets overcame a shaky start to help Milwaukee end a three-game losing streak.

Santana struggled and the Mets' three-game winning streak was snapped. He lasted 6 2-3 innings and allowed five runs.

Santana, who allowed 33 home runs with Minnesota last season to lead the league, worked his way out of a number of jams but was hurt by the long ball.

Sheets allowed only five hits in 7 2-3 innings. After giving up two runs in the first inning and leaving the bases loaded in the second, he was untouchable, retiring 18 consecutive batters into the eighth inning.

Santana, who allowed 33 home runs with Minnesota last season to lead the league, worked his way out of a number of jams but was hurt by the long ball.

Diamondbacks 10, Rockies 3

In Phoenix, Arizona claimed its eighth consecutive victory by downing Colorado.

Justin Upton, the first overall pick in the 2005 draft, went 3-for-3 with four RBIs, including a three-run homer.

Arizona improved to 5-0 against Colorado this season and is already 3-1/2 games clear top of the West division.

The Diamondbacks have outscored Colorado 38-10 in the five games. Last October, the Rockies swept Arizona in the NL's championship series.

Cardinals 8, Giants 7, 10 innings

In San Francisco, Chris Duncan lined a go-ahead single with bases loaded in the 10th inning to give St. Louis victory over San Francisco.

The Cardinals battered the Giants' relief pitchers to spoil a gem by starter Matt Cain. Cain had a no-hitter heading into the seventh for only the fourth time in his career.

St. Louis took advantage of two walks, one intentional, and a hit batsman in the 10th.

Braves 10, Nationals 2

In Washington, Atlanta handed Washington its ninth straight loss.

Jeff Francoeur had two home runs and a career-high seven RBIs for the Braves.

The Nationals' skid is their longest since moving to Washington in 2005

from Montreal. The last time the franchise lost nine in a row was as the Montreal Expos in the final nine games of the 2000 season.

Phillies 7, Cubs 1

In Philadelphia, Cole Hamels allowed just one hit over seven innings, guiding Philadelphia past Chicago.

Pedro Feliz and Ryan Howard hit two-run homers for the Phillies.

A double in the fourth was the only hit off Hamels, who got 13 outs on flyballs.

ning streak snapped and lost for the first time in five road games.

Dodgers 11, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, the home side snapped a four-game skid by beating San Diego.

Andre Ethier went 3-for-5 with a two-run homer, while Rafael Furcal and Matt Kemp each hit their first homers of the season.

White Sox to 7, Tigers 0

At Chicago, Gavin Floyd held the Detroit Tigers hitless until Edgar Renteria singled

Verlander allowed four hits and was charged with six runs in 7 2-3 innings. He fell to 1-6 against the White Sox in his career.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 3

At Boston, Manny Ramirez homered and added a two-run double to give Boston the lead, and Josh Beckett rebounded from a bad season debut in a win over New York.

Beckett (1-1) allowed just one questionable hit in the first five innings, and five hits in all. He walked one, struck out five and threw two

Kubel hit a solo shot off Brett Tomko (1-1) in the third. Tomko gave up six hits and two runs in six-plus innings, with one walk, one strikeout and a painful stop of a hard grounder off his left leg that he somehow turned into an out.

Orioles 3, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Ramon Hernandez hit a tiebreaking solo homer off Dan Wheeler (0-1) in the ninth inning, after a run-scoring triple, and Baltimore stopped a three-game skid.

Carlos Pena homered for the second straight day off Orioles reliever Jamie Walker, a solo shot in the eighth that tied it at 2. Pena has three homers and seven RBIs in the first two games of the three-game series.

Athletics 7, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Bobby Crosby hit a three-run homer and Oakland took advantage of 10 walks issued by Cleveland pitchers.

Fausto Carmona (1-1) gave up a career-high eight walks in 3 1-3 innings. Crosby's homer capped a four-run seventh off reliever Rafael Perez.

Lenny DiNardo (1-0) gave up two runs on six hits over five-plus innings for his first win since last Aug. 19.

Blue Jays 4, Rangers 1

At Arlington, Texas, Roy Halladay threw a six-hit complete game, and Aaron Hill drove in three runs to lead Toronto.

Marlon Byrd broke up Halladay's shutout bid with a RBI double with one out in the ninth. Halladay (2-1) struck out six, walked one and threw 109 pitches for his 32nd complete game.

Hill had an RBI double in the first inning and a two-run single in the fourth. Matt Stairs and Joe Inglett added three hits for the Blue Jays.

Luis Mendoza (0-1), coming off the Rangers' disabled list earlier in the day, allowed four runs—only one earned—and eight hits in five innings.

Mariners 8, Angels 3

At Seattle, Richie Sexson hit a tie-breaking, two-run home run, Carlos Silva went eight effective innings, and Seattle beat its AL West nemesis Los Angeles again.

Raul Ibanez homered for the second consecutive night.

Silva (2-0) gave up 11 hits, his most since Aug. 27, 2006, when he was with Minnesota. He walked one and threw 98 pitches before Sean Green finished the ninth.

Jon Garland (1-2) allowed 12 hits and six runs, three earned, in 5 1-3 innings.



Milwaukee Brewers Ben Sheets delivers a pitch to a New York Mets batter during the sixth inning of their baseball game at Shea Stadium in New York, Saturday, April 12, 2008.

Pirates 4, Reds 3

In Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth, the surprise major league hits leader, singled in the go-ahead run and had two more hits as Pittsburgh edged Cincinnati.

It was the first time this season Pittsburgh had won back-to-back games.

Astros 5, Marlins 0

In Houston, Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer and scored another run as Houston shut down Florida.

Brandon Backe gave up five hits and five walks with two strikeouts in five innings.

The Marlins had a four-game win-

with one out in the eighth inning and pitched the Chicago White Sox to victory.

Floyd (2-0) had never pitched more than seven innings in the majors. He struck out four and walked four in 7 1-3 innings.

Floyd is now 2-0 with a 1.71 ERA in four starts against Detroit since last September. He is 0-3 with a 4.50 ERA in three starts against other teams in that span.

Chicago took a 1-0 lead off Justin Verlander (0-2) on Orlando Cabrera's first home run for the White Sox, a solo shot in the third. In the eighth, Verlander beamed Cabrera in the helmet and the White Sox went on to score six more runs.

wild pitches in 6 2-3 innings.

Mike Mussina (1-2) allowed four runs and eight hits before leaving after Ramirez doubled with two out in the sixth to give Boston a 3-2 lead.

Twins 2, Royals 0

At Kansas City, Missouri, Boof Bonser pitched six innings and Jason Kubel homered and scored twice as Minnesota shut out Kansas City for the second straight night.

Bonser (1-2) did not give up a hit until Ross Gload singled with one out in the fifth. He allowed three hits, two walks and struck out four.

Pacman to seek reinstatement again



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Suspended Tennessee Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones will again ask NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to reinstate him, with his agent planning to send in his latest request on Tuesday.

Jones had planned to ask to be reinstated before the NFL draft on April 26-27. His agent, Manny Arora, said that being able to work out for teams would increase Jones' appeal to those in the market for a cornerback.

"We were hoping something would get worked out with the Titans or another team to work out a trade, but the trade talks, the way I read, aren't progressing as well as we hoped," Arora said on Saturday. "If the commissioner

reinstates or grants permission to work out at a team's facility, that should ease the risk factor for a team interested in picking him up."

The NFL sent Jones a letter in late February telling him he could not work out at the Titan's facility. The Titans have given Jones permission to talk to other teams about a trade, and the Dallas Cowboys have shown the most interest. But the talks reportedly have bogged down over compensation.

Arora said they still hope Jones will be traded before the draft, and they are ready to rework his contract.

Arora also said that if they can't get Jones reinstated they hope to at least ease the terms of his suspension, now going on more than a year, to make him more attractive.

Jones was the first defensive player drafted in 2005 with the sixth pick overall out of West Virginia, and he was Tennessee's best defender in 2005 and 2006.

Goodell suspended him on April 10, 2007, for his off-field conduct, which now includes six arrests since being drafted.

Jones settled the last of his criminal charges on Feb. 14 by entering an Alford plea to obstruction of a police officer in Georgia, which left him with a felony conviction. Under an Alford plea, a defendant acknowledges there is enough evidence for a conviction without admitting guilt.

The commissioner has said he'll consider reinstating the cornerback before training camps open in July.

Dolphins fullback Reagan Mauia arrested

WESTON, Fla. (AP)—Miami Dolphins fullback Reagan Mauia was charged with punching another man in the face and knocking him unconscious in a restaurant parking lot early Friday.

The victim, Michael Gianatassio, was treated at a hospital and released. Mauia was charged with battery and released on \$1,000 bond, the Broward County Sheriff's Office said.

According to witnesses, Gianatassio and his girlfriend were walking by when Mauia asked Gianatassio what he was looking at. Gianatassio replied he wasn't looking at anyone, then was punched by the 270-pound

Mauia, the sheriff's office said.

Mauia fled, but a witness took a photo of his vehicle, which allowed the sheriff's office to track him down. A witness identified him as the person who punched Gianatassio, the sheriff's office said. After being booked at the county jail, Mauia was released.

A sixth-round draft choice, Mauia started nine games for the Dolphins as a rookie last year.

"We are aware of the situation regarding Reagan earlier today," coach Tony Sparano said in a statement. "We will withhold any further comment because we are in the process of gathering more information."

FIESTA-GRAND

From Page 28

to play and Fiesta-Grand holding on to a 71-62 lead.

Sanciangco waxed hot early in the game, drilling in 16 points in the first quarter to help Fiesta-Grand establish a 26-15 advantage. Fiesta-Grand even enjoyed a 42-29 halftime lead.

But PIC would not go down without a fight with Marino Pungilug leading a balanced third quarter scoring attack to help his team close in at 54-55 before Sanciangco and Esdrelon went berserk in the final canto. Sanciangco scored a game-

high 33 points, while Esdrelon added 24 markers with William Opone tallying 13 more. Dela Torre only had five points but four of those points came when PIC threatened to grab the lead.

Tudela paced PIC with 19 points but was held scoreless in the second period while Kaipat, who struggled in the fourth quarter, had 15 markers.

Guards Marino Pungilug and James Abuy combined for 17 points but missed crucial outside shots that could have turned the game in their favor. Also missing was J.R. Ngeskebei's consistent shooting and scoring savvy.

In the battle for third place, Krisgel Arreza erupted for 23

points to lead Hyatt Regency Saipan to a 77-63 come-from-behind win over last year's champion Aqua Resort Club.

Mike Umali added 13 points, while Bernard Aquino chipped in 11 markers as well as orchestrating the Hyatt offense. Edmark Mendoza and Steven Tenorio finished with 10 each.

Glen Aquino led Aqua Resort with 23 points while Mike Achas netted 11 more.

First Game
Hyatt Regency Saipan 77
– Arreza 23, Umali 13, Aquino 11, Mendoza 10, Tenorio 10, Dillay 5, Magno 4.
Aqua Resort Club 63 – Aquino

no 23, M. Achas 11, Calvo 8, Gapor 8, Johannes 8, Torres 5.

Scoring by quarters: 10-17, 27-30, 57-43, 77-63.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Manny Sitchon.

Second Game
Fiesta-Grand Hotel 87 – Sanciangco 33, Esdrelon 24, Opone 13, Dela Torre 5, Carino 4, Manglona 4, David 2.
Pacific Islands Club 72 – Tudela 18, Kaipat 15, Pungilug 9, Abuy 8, Ngeskebei 8, Fernandez 6, Lee 4, Swain 4.
Scoring by quarters: 26-15, 42-29, 55-54, 87-72.
Referees: Arnold Mesa and Dado Vistal.

DCCA

From Page 28

ground out, which was fielded cleanly by the DCCA defense.

Likisap and Atalig combined for 6-for-6 in batting with two

runs and two RBIs, while Bert Camacho went 3-for-4 with three runs and Rangamar went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

Omar went 2-for-4 scoring two runs, had three RBIs, and a triple while Tagabuel, who was

named the finals most valuable player, went 2-for-4 with four RBIs to go with her two runs and a bottom of the sixth four-bagger.

The members of the DCCA team are Evita Maratita, Bert Camacho, Doris Rangamar, Jo-

vie Omar, Nadia Tagabuel, Nadia Saralu, Arlene Likisap, Benny Mettao, Ruth Sakisat, Abby Atalig, and Lorna Iginoef.

DCCA won Game 1 earlier in the day, 18-14, to complete the shutout win and their title defense.

ISLANDERS

From Page 28

duo Saturday.

Baudinet and Jacobe took on the highly fancied Oman brother pairing and competed well throughout, according to the Oceania Tennis website.

Jacobae actually was serving for the match in the fourth set before the Al Nabhani brothers rallied and put the Islanders out of their misery in the fifth to claim the win and the tie, 7-6 (7-3) 5-7, 3-6 7-6(7-3), 6-4.

With the loss, the Islanders will be relegated to Group III of Davis Cup for 2009 after losing the first three rubber in the tie with Oman. The reverse singles was played yesterday but results were still not available as of

press time.

According to Oceania Tennis, Pacific Oceania fought right to the end but eventually succumbed in five sets in the doubles.

The first set of the doubles went all the way to a tiebreaker without a loss of service although the Islanders' pair of Jacobe and Baudinet had to save five set points in the 10th game.

Oman controlled the tiebreak, winning the last four points to claim it 7-3. The third set went with serve until the 12th game when the Pacific Oceania pair broke serve to take the set 7-5. Growing in confidence Pacific Oceania raced to a 5-0 lead in the third set before giving back one break. Baudinet eventually served out the set to give the visitors a two sets to one lead.

The fourth set was full of dra-

ma. Baudinet dropped serve in the fourth game after Jacobe missed two volleys. Oman then held to lead 5-2 before Pacific Oceania came roaring back breaking serve twice to set up a 6-5 lead with Jacobe to serve for the match.

At 30-all a winning return by Oman followed by a Jacobe double fault—where there was a 60-second interruption between first and second serve while one of the Omani players argued with the referee—saw the Pacific team's chance slip away. Again, the tiebreak was lost 7-3 with Oman claiming the last four points.

The final set went with serve with Pacific Oceania unable to break despite twice having Oman at 0-40. At 3-3, disaster struck when Baudinet served his only double fault of the match

to lose serve. Oman then held serve twice to claim the set 6-4 and the match in five sets.

Last Friday, Michael Leong of Solomon Islands was overpowered by the big serve and brutal forehand of Khalid Al Nabhani in the opening match, 1-6, 6-7 (3-7), 4-6.

Juan Sebastian Langton of Samoa, meanwhile, fared much better against Mohammed Al Nabhani, but lost in a tight one nonetheless, 5-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6.

Pacific Oceania was skippered by Cyrille Mainguy, while Majid Abdullah Mandhari was team captain for the victorious Oman side, which third player, Sulaiman Al Rawai, didn't even see action in the first two days. He, however, was expected to play Sunday after the tie's outcome was already decided.

MATANSA

From Page 28

youth under the said villages are invited to register. A women's team will be added to the Matansa family this fall.

The Stingrays' Matansa name came from the historical reference of Saipan's

northern slaughter fields. Their coaches last season were Women's National team member Madison Smith (Under-6); Mike Rueter and Perry Conner (Under-8); John Aldrich and Ray Bulaklak (Under-10); Men's National team manager John Ravell and Glen Perez (Under-12); Women's national team mem-

bers Lindsay Davis (Under-15 girls') and Brenda Schultz (Under-15 boys').

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is their corporate sponsor with Jerry Tan as the club president and Ravell as the vice president. Christina Smith is the secretary general with Elna Curate as the treasurer.

The Stingrays' Under-15

boys' and girls' teams played against the MP United Football Club and Paire Football Club on Saturday in an end of the season festival at Garapan Elementary School. Results were not available at press time.

On April 19, Saturday, Matansa's Under-12 team will participate in the final festival of the season.

Brenda Schultz, right, joins the Matansa Football Club Stingrays 15-and-under boys' team for a group photo during the club's gathering on April 6 at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
z-Boston	64	16	.800	—					
x-Toronto	40	39	.506	23 1/2					
x-Philadelphia	40	40	.500	24					
New Jersey	33	47	.413	31					
New York	23	57	.288	41					
Southeast Division									
y-Orlando	49	30	.620	—					
x-Washington	42	38	.525	7 1/2					
Atlanta	37	43	.463	12 1/2					
Charlotte	31	49	.388	18 1/2					
Miami	14	65	.177	35					
Central Division									
y-Detroit	56	23	.709	—					
x-Cleveland	43	36	.544	13					
Indiana	35	45	.438	21 1/2					
Chicago	31	48	.392	25					
Milwaukee	26	54	.325	30 1/2					
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
x-New Orleans	55	25	.688	—					
x-Houston	54	25	.684	1/2					
x-San Antonio	54	25	.684	1/2					
x-Dallas	50	30	.625	5					
Memphis	22	58	.275	33					
Northwest Division									
y-Utah	53	27	.663	—					
Denver	48	32	.600	5					
Portland	40	40	.500	13					
Minnesota	21	59	.263	32					
Seattle	18	62	.225	35					
Pacific Division									
y-L.A. Lakers	55	25	.688	—					
x-Phoenix	53	27	.663	2					
Golden State	48	32	.600	7					
Sacramento	38	42	.475	17					
L.A. Clippers	23	57	.288	32					
x-clinched playoff spot									
y-clinched division									
z-clinched conference									
Yesterday's Games									
Boston 99, Atlanta 89									
Charlotte 107, Indiana 103									
Washington 109, Philadelphia 93									
Minnesota 114, Memphis 105									
New Jersey 111, Milwaukee 98									
Utah 124, Denver 97									
Portland 108, Dallas 105									
Sacramento 94, New Orleans 91									
Golden State 122, L.A. Clippers 116									
MLB STANDINGS									
AMERICAN LEAGUE									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Baltimore	7	4	.636	—					
Toronto	6	5	.545	1					
Boston	6	6	.500	1					
New York	6	6	.500	1					
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	2					
Central Division									
Chicago	6	4	.600	—					
Kansas City	6	5	.545	1/1					
Minnesota	6	5	.545	1/2					
Cleveland	4	7	.364	2					
Detroit	2	9	.182	4					
West Division									
Oakland	8	4	.667	—					
Los Angeles	6	6	.500	2					
Seattle	6	6	.500	2					
Texas	5	6	.455	2					
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
East Division									
Florida	7	4	.636	—					
Philadelphia	6	6	.500	1 1/2					
New York	5	5	.500	1 1/2					
Atlanta	5	6	.455	2					
Washington	3	9	.250	4 1/2					
Central Division									
St. Louis	9	3	.750	—					
FMI Standings									
O/Aces	2	0							
Advance X-Terminators	2	0							
Shirley's Coffee Shop	2	1							
GEC Pawnshop	2	1							
TASI Tours Giants	1	2							
Price Costco	1	1							
Starwater	0	1							
MIGS	0	2							
SMF-Seabridge	0	2							

Milwaukee	7	4	.636	1 1/2
Chicago	6	5	.545	2 1/2
Cincinnati	6	6	.500	3
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Houston	4	8	.333	5

West Division				
Arizona	9	2	.818	—
San Diego	6	6	.500	3 1/2
Los Angeles	5	6	.455	4
Colorado	4	7	.364	5
San Francisco	4	8	.333	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games				
Chicago White Sox 7, Detroit 0				
Boston 4, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Oakland 7, Cleveland 3				
Baltimore 3, Tampa Bay 2				
Minnesota 2, Kansas City 0				
Toronto 4, Texas 1				
Seattle 8, L.A. Angels 3				
Atlanta 10, Washington 2				
Milwaukee 5, N.Y. Mets 3				
Arizona 10, Colorado 3				
St. Louis 8, San Francisco 7, 10 innings				
Houston 5, Florida 0				
Pittsburgh 4, Cincinnati 3				
Philadelphia 7, Chicago Cubs 1				
L.A. Dodgers 11, San Diego 1				

MASTERS SCORES		
AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP)—Scores from Saturday's third round of the Masters at the 7,445-yard, par-72 Augusta National Golf Club (a-amateur):		

Trevor Immelman	68-68-69	205
Brandt Snedeker	69-68-70	207
Steve Flesch	72-67-69	208
Paul Casey	71-69-69	209
Tiger Woods	72-71-68	211
Stewart Cink	72-69-71	212
Zach Johnson	70-76-68	214
Boo Weekley	72-74-68	214
Padraig Harrington	74-71-69	214
Andres Romero	72-72-70	214
Robert Karlsson	70-73-71	214
Sean O'Hair	72-71-71	214
Retief Goosen	71-71-72	214
Ian Poulter	70-69-75	214
Phil Mickelson	71-68-75	214
Vijay Singh	72-71-72	215
Lee Westwood	69-73-73	215
Arron Oberholser	71-70-74	215
Adam Scott	75-71-70	216
Jim Furyk	70-73-73	216
J.B. Holmes	73-70-73	216
Mike Weir	73-68-75	216
Jeev Milkha Singh	71-74-72	217
Nick Watney	75-70-72	217
Brian Bateman	69-76-72	217
Nick Dougherty	74-69-74	217
Stephen Ames	70-70-77	217
Henrik Stenson	74-72-72	218
Stuart Appleby	76-70-72	218
Robert Allenby	72-74-72	218
Justin Leonard	72-74-72	218
Angel Cabrera	73-72-73	218
Bubba Watson	74-71-73	218
Richard Sterne	73-72-73	218
Miguel Angel Jimenez	77-70-72	219
David Toms	73-74-72	219
Justin Rose	68-78-73	219
Johnson Wagner	72-74-74	220
Niclas Fasth	75-70-76	221
Todd Hamilton	74-73-75	221
Geoff Ogilvy	75-71-76	222
Ian Woosnam	75-71-76	222
Heath Slocum	71-76-77	224
K.J. Choi	72-75-78	225
Sandy Lyle	72-75-78	225

Tsunami Saipan Red Cross swim lessons make splash



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Shin Kimura helps participant, J.R. del Rosario, the proper kicking form during the club's American Red Cross swim lessons last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The first two weeks of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red

Cross swim lessons were such a big hit that organizers had to turn away 30 or so would-be participants.

In an email, Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said the first two days of the clinic drew an average of more than 60 participants.

"The lessons were filled up. There

were 30 people who couldn't participate. They are on the waiting list and we will invite them for the June session. We [definitely] will have summer session [this coming] June," he said.

Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good, for his part, said he was happy with the turnout and that the success of the clinic bodes well for the future of water safety on Saipan.

"This is the second in a series of water safety courses that Tsunami Saipan hopes to offer to the public with the Red Cross' support. Many parents and adults have expressed how thankful they are to have this service available.

"Teaching the young children some basic water safety skills will go a long way to prevent water accidents. Many of the older participants are parents or grandparents who want to be able to enjoy the water with their children, or be able to save them should they have problems in the water," he said.

Good and Kimura said Tsunami Saipan and the American Red Cross are very appreciative of the management of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan for allowing them the use of their swimming pool. "This is a generous contribution to the community."

Aside from Kimura and Good, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president Bobby Winkfield and NMASA Hall of Fame Mike Villagomez also served as coaches of the clinic.

Tsunami Saipan assistant coach Val Welch, Mina Minami, Tami Winkfield, Daniel Villegas, Rezne Wong, Arthur Welch, James Sakamoto, Shin Kimura, Marystar Welch, Kensuke Kimura, Quincy Johnson, Amanda Johnson, Kaise Toda, Ashley Welch, and Kiana Villagomez also taught in the clinic, which had three levels—1, 2, and 3.

GEC rally past foe, Ol'Aces in easy win

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



GEC Pawnshop overcame a slow start to rally past its foe, while Ol'Aces had an easy win over a recently

added team in Friday night's open division in the 2008 FMI Inter-color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mark Wallace showed his offensive power in leading the Pawnbrokers to a 105-95 win over the TASI Tours Giants, while Jericho Cruz led a balanced scoring as the star-studded Ol'Aces routed the Star Waterkings, 112-54.

Wallace scored 29 of his team-high 42 points in the second half to lead the Pawnbrokers' comeback after being down by almost 10 markers, the last time a 37-46 halftime deficit.

Manuel Ajoste added 17 points, while Larry Palero tallied 12 markers also for the GEC crew of coach Jerry Lopez, which bounced back from a 88-92 loss to Shirley's Coffee Shop-Blue Hauz last April 3.

The win improved the Pawnbrokers' record to 2-1 to join the Shirley's Foodmakers in joint third to fourth place behind Ol'Aces and the Advance X-Terminators' unbeaten 2-0 marks. The loss dropped the Giants to fifth with a 1-2 card.

Ehroll Peredo paced the Giants with 23 points, while Bernard Aquino and Ed Cosino netted 13 apiece and Banjo Basila finished with 11. Veteran guard Pando Muleta was held to a season-low five points, while big men Danny Bicara and Jawn Joyner, who played his first game after missing the first two matches, were held to a combined eight markers.

In the first game, Cruz scattered

24 points to lead Ol'Aces' balanced scoring in a 112-54 demolition of Star Water.

Cruz had plenty of help from the Abong Camacho and Ed Diaz who netted 18 apiece for Ol'Aces, which built an early double-digit spread and never looked back.

Come-backing Jack Lizama added 17 markers, while Romeo Iginoef and Fred Pelisamen had 11 and 10 apiece. Derrick Nedlic and Elias Rangamar combined for 14 points also for the Sonny Flores-coached Ol'Aces.

Christian Areza scored 19 points to lead the Waterkings, which is made up of a number of Aqua Resort Club players that saw action in the HANMI Cup. Gil Gapor chipped in 10 with no other player scoring more than 10.

First Game

O'Aces 112 — Cruz 24, A. Camacho 18, Diaz 18, Lizama 17, Iginoef 11, Pelisamen 10, Nedlic 8, Rangamar 6.

Star Water 54 — Areza 19, Gapor 10, M. Achas 8, Ma. Achas 6, R. Achas 5, Asuncion 2, Hernandez 2, Sacramento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-13, 50-24, 77-37m 112-54.

Referees: Manny Sitchon and Dado Vistal.

Second Game

GEC Pawnshop 105 — Wallace 42, Ajoste 17, Palero 12, Cacho 8, Camacho 8, Celis 7, Umali 6, Wesley 3, Palma 2.

TASI Tours 95 — E. Peredo 23, Aquino 13, Cosino 13, Basila 11, De Guzman 9, Talania 6, Muleta 5, Bicara 4, Joyner 4, R. Peredo 4, Factor 3.

Scoring by quarters: 20-25, 37-46, 71-65, 105-95.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Jess Pabula.

Veteran referee Mesa resumes school tour Friday deadline for 3-on-3 caging



basketball.

Mesa held two sessions at the MBA campus in Dandan on April 7 and 9 from 3pm to 5pm. He said the MBA coach is requesting another clinic but Mesa said he would be available for another session after his visit to Grace Christian Academy.

Mesa taught 10 "keys" to students starting by explaining the importance of warm-up exercises before every game and practice. He then did some sliding, crossover, and pump fake drills and taught the fundamentals of blocking a shot.

He also showed the students the basic footwork in handling the ball and to understand the pivot move while also explaining about out of bounds, and end and sideline plays.

To the point guards, Mesa taught them how to properly set up their team's offense and how to help each other in creating screens and posting up plays. He also taught them how to channel the offense towards the trapping areas on the most crucial spots called "coffin corners," and how to contain their opponents' ball carriers.

Mesa said he also wanted to teach local players about the latest defense being used by college coaches in the mainland. "This type of technology must be taught through out the Pacific region so our youth can understand more how basketball should be played efficiently and with no injuries." (Jon Perez)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Referee Arnold Mesa, left, joins the boys, above, and girls team of the Marianas Baptist Academy for a group photo after conducting two sessions at their Dandan campus.

Organizers of the 3-on-3 Street Ball Jamboree on Saturday has set a Friday deadline for its inaugural basketball tournament to be held from at the Garapan Basketball Court across the Bank of Guam.

Slots are limited to 16 teams so interested squads are advised to secure their registration forms and pay the \$30 entrance fee on or before the deadline on April 18. Players who wish to join must be between 16 to 27 years old.

The public is invited to cheer their favorite teams on Saturday and also get the chance to win various raffle prizes.

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and forms can be picked up at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium or at 3A'S Polyshine in Chalan Kanoa near William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Victory Chapel in Garapan is organizing the one-day street basketball tournament and the event will run from 3pm to 9pm at the Garapan court.

Shell Marianas, Marianas Pacific Distributors

Inc. (MARPA), Coca Cola Micronesia, Herman's Bakery, Pacific Trading Co. Ltd. (Pepsi), Micronesian Brokers Inc., Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, McDonald's Saipan, Mary's Bakery, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, Saipan Ice & Water, Joeten Corp., Yaong Corp., Fiesta Resort & Spa, Century Insurance, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point are the sponsors of the event.

The tournament is open to men's division teams ages 16 to 27 and a minimum of four or maximum of five players are allowed in each squad.

The tournament, one of Victory Chapel's community projects for the year, will follow a knockout system format where the top two teams after the elimination round will vie for the \$300 top prize, while the runner-up settles for \$180.

For more information on how to get the entry forms and tournament rules, call Ed Sikayun or Martin Mettao at 235-8418. (Jon Perez)



Tsunami Saipan Red Cross swim lessons makes a splash

The first two weeks of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swim lessons were such a big hit that organizers had to turn away 30 or so would-be participants.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Immelman steady as Woods makes his move

Trevor Immelman stood frozen in the fairway when the ball kept going, spinning off the 15th green and onto the ramp of tightly mowed grass, tumbling toward the water.

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28 MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fiesta-Grand wins HANMI Cup

Survives PIC rally to wrap up 2008 title

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

In the end, Ryan Sanciango and Elmer Esdrelon were too much for Pacific Islands Club.

Fiesta-Grand Hotel's 1-2 punch were at their usual best in leading their team to an 87-72 win over PIC in last night's you-or-me showdown for the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League crown at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sanciango and Esdrelon plus back-to-back baskets from Ferdie Dela Torre kept Fiesta-Grand afloat, especially when PIC last threatened at 61-64 with still six minutes and eight seconds left in the fourth period.

Derrick Tudela's split free throw and a Butch Kaipat twin-ner kept PIC close in the game but that was the best they could do as Fiesta-Grand's dynamic duo bailed their team out of harm's way.

An Esdrelon 3-point-er plus consecutive putbacks by Dela Torre capped by a Sanciango 3-point play highlighted Fiesta-Grand's 10-3 exchange to keep PIC trailing by 10 points, 74-64, with 3:40 left in the game.

PIC never threatened after that as they missed crucial free throws and could not connect with their outside shots, while missing main gunner James Abuy, who committed his fifth and final foul with still 4:11 left

See FIESTA-GRAND on Page 26



Fiesta-Grand players celebrate their 2008 HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball championship with officials of the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

DCCA rallies, repeat as women's champ

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Nadia Tagabuel blasted a three-run, inside-the-park home run in Game 2 to help Department of Community and Cultural Affairs repeat as the women's division champion in the Inter-government Softball League.

DCCA used an eight-run bottom of the sixth scoring spree to score a come-from-behind 13-10 win over the Northern Marianas College-Proa in Friday night's finals at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Trailing 10-5, after 5 1/2 innings, Arlene Likisap led off with a single off relief pitcher Angela Ngirbedul. She advanced to second on a Benny Mettao fielder's choice then moved to third on another fielder's choice by Ruth Sakisat with Likisap scoring in that play.

Mettao, however, was tagged out on a 6-4-

put-out play while trying to reach second base for the first out. Abby Atalig singled in Sakisat while Lorna Iginoef walked to continue DCCA's comeback.

But Iginoef was tagged out while going to second bas on an Evita Maratita fielder's choice as Proa kept DCCA's runners on hold at first base. Bert Camacho, with two outs, singled while Doris Rangamar walked.

Jovie Omar then connected on a two-RBI single to let Maratita and Camacho reach home while Rangamar moved to third in the same play.

That set up Tagabuel's three-run shot as she brought Ngirbedul's 2-2 pitch, still with two outs, sailing deep at the right-center field fence.

Nadia Saralu grounded out on a 4-3 put-out play to end the inning.

Proa still has a chance to force a Game 3 but Omar slammed the door shut in the top of the seventh by forcing them to either fly out or

See DCCA on Page 26



The women's team of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs pose for a group photo after completing their title defense in the Inter-government Softball League on Friday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ

Islanders relegated to Group III

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Pacific Oceania was relegated to Group III over the weekend after losing the opening singles and Day 2 doubles matches in its 2008 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II tie against Oman held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

After the Islanders were swept in the opening singles matches by the talented Al Nabhani brothers—Mohammad and Khalid—last Friday, the doubles pair of Brett Baudinet of Cook Islands and Cyril Jacobe of Vanuatu lost the vital doubles rubber in five sets against the same

See ISLANDERS on Page 26



Pacific Oceania's Brett Baudinet of Cook Islands and Cyril Jacobe of Vanuatu in action against Oman's Mohammad Al Nabhani and Khalid Al Nabhani in their 2008 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II tie doubles match held last Saturday at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

WWW.OCEANIATENNIS.COM

Matansa Stingrays ends first youth league season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Matansa Football Club celebrated its first Youth Football League playing as an organized club last April 5 and 6 where they played against other teams in the recently concluded season.

The Matansa Stingrays was established in November 2007 and is one of the four football

clubs that earned Northern Marianas Islands Football Association membership.

The area covered by the Stingrays includes the northern villages of Capital Hill, Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi.

This season the Stingrays fielded six teams with players' age ranging from 4 to 14 where 72 players all donned the red t-shirt bearing the Stingray.

The MFC held a gathering at the Gregorio T. Camacho Ele-

mentary School to celebrate the season in an afternoon of friendship, food and awards. GTC is where the Stingrays held their practices and home games.

The Stingrays would like to thank all the parents in supporting the youth players this season and the entire coaching staff that sacrificed afternoons for practices and every Saturday for games.

The Stingrays will hold their registration in August where all

See MATANSA on Page 26